

COMFORT

NEW YEAR NUMBER

*The Key to Happiness and Success
in over a Million and a Quarter Homes*

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A New Year Eve Adventure

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COMFORT

EDITORIAL

THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE AND WORDS THAT BURN

If Food Prices Are High, How About Everyday Shoes Going to \$12 a Pair?

SO much noise is being made by those who are clamoring vociferously for an embargo to stop the exportation of food stuffs that attention is diverted from the rapidly diminishing supply of another article of necessary utility which now threatens a degree of scarcity that would cause more inconvenience and distress than the prevailing high food prices.

The prices of shoes have nearly doubled within the last few months and they are being marked up each week; not only that but in many instances they are being made of inferior material. It is certain that they will go higher and, unless some vigorous preventive measures are taken at once, will very soon reach a figure that is prohibitive to the family of average income.

The cause is found in the scarcity of leather due to the extraordinary demand of Europe for war purposes having overtaxed the leather resources of the world. Many of our shoe factories have been running overtime to fill profitable war orders while foreign governments have been and still are buying up enormous quantities of leather in this country for military purposes. The supply is nearly exhausted and what little remains is mostly in the hands of speculators. The shoe manufacturers are alarmed at the shortage. They assert that the present supply will not last them over four months at the most and that, unless something is done immediately to relieve the situation, they will soon have to run with half crews although they have orders enough to keep their factories busy night and day if they could get the necessary leather.

They predict that, if the present condition continues, medium grade shoes will be twelve dollars a pair before spring and other grades in proportion, which means, of course, that many families would have to go barefooted,—even at that price there would not be shoes enough to supply domestic requirements. Besides the suffering caused by the high prices and shortage of shoes nearly one half the hands now employed in the shoe factories will be thrown out of employment, a calamity which high food prices are not likely to entail.

The shoe manufacturers and, at their instigation, the retailers have petitioned Congress for an investigation of the leather situation and for some means of relief. Just what means would be effective they fail to make clear, but Congressman Michael P. Phelan, of Massachusetts, to whom they have appealed, has promised his best efforts to stir Congress to take action. Let us hope that some adequate measure may be devised to mitigate this burden of inconvenience and expense which threatens the people.

The shoe and leather situation is one of many forceful illustrations arising out of present war conditions that might be cited to show the injustice of singling out farm products as the subject of embargo while permitting free exportation of all other commodities with consequent war prices. Whether the government has the power to impose an embargo for the sole purpose of reducing the open market price of an article is doubted. But if there is to be an embargo let it cover everything that is above normal price in consequence of the war. That would be only fair, but it would never go because every fellow that is shouting for an embargo wants it on the other fellow's products—NOT on his own.

The Temperance Cause Gaining Ground

TO those who are sincerely interested in the uplift of humanity it is encouraging to note the growing sentiment in favor of total abstinence from the use, and against permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors. On the first day of last November Virginia, the latest accession to the splendid array of prohibition states,

put into successful operation the most drastic law yet devised for the suppression of the liquor evil. Evidently the Old Dominion is in earnest in her purpose to banish intemperance for she has not only abolished the manufacture and sale of liquor within her borders but does not permit anybody to bring into the State, even for personal use, more than one gallon of wine or distilled liquor or three gallons of beer at a time, and that not oftener than once a month.

And this law is being enforced with satisfactory results, for the people of Virginia are in no mood to be trifled with as those of certain other prohibition states have been by negligent or corrupt nullification at the hands of local officers. The Virginia statute provides a speedy means of removing any official that neglects to perform his duty faithfully with respect to the suppression of the liquor traffic.

Bells chimed and bonfires blazed in token of public rejoicing on the last night in October when eight hundred saloons, bars and poison shops in Richmond, Norfolk, Lynchburg, Petersburg and Newport News closed their doors never to open for pandering to vice through commerce in the great destroyer of men.

Nineteen states now absolutely prohibit the sale of liquor, and the increase in the area of dry territory in the local option states during the past year indicates that many of the latter will soon adopt state-wide prohibition. All this has given such an impetus to the movement for nation-wide prohibition that the Anti-Saloon League predicts that the year 1920 will witness the closing of the last saloon in the United States. A bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the District of Columbia is being debated in Congress with fair prospects of its adoption at the present session.

It is a national disgrace that our government licenses the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico, all territories over which Congress has complete power. Congress has always taken pains to prohibit and severely punish the sale of intoxicants among the Indian tribes. Can't our lawmakers see that what is essential for the uplift of the red men is equally necessary for the regeneration of the multitude of white men and negroes that are making besotted wrecks of themselves, causing inexpressible anguish to their families and inestimable injury to the community? It is no credit to us that we make a better law for the Indians, whom we govern without their consent, than we do for ourselves, for our action is based on our false conceit that we, as a race, have strength of mind and will to use the seductive stuff without danger of falling victims to its destructive influence. The drink habit is not confined to men of low intellect and untutored mind. Do you know of a community however small that does not present a lamentable example of a man of uncommon ability ruined by alcoholism? But as a people we are awakening to the necessity of invoking the strong arm of the federal government to extinguish throughout the length and breadth of the land this menace that is no respecter of race, color or station in life.

Giving Away the People's Birthright

THE habit, to which Congress and our state legislatures are prone, of leaving the stable unlocked until after the horse is stolen—not one only but horse after horse—and of even giving the thieves a helping hand should be severely rebuked and summarily ended forever. If it was their own property we would not care, but it is the people's birthright of which the lawmakers are so negligent and prodigal.

The numerous state and federal prosecutions and investigations of the trusts—notably of the

coal and oil interests—have not afforded the people any relief but have loaded them with the expense of these fruitless proceedings designed to appease their wrath. If our legislators had not in times past given away the natural resources of the country and permitted them to come under the power of private monopoly, we should have no coal and oil troubles to deal with because the sources of supply would have remained subject to governmental control. Only a few years ago the immensely valuable coal lands of Alaska were barely rescued from the maw of a capitalistic octopus when, at the last moment, public exposure of the fraud compelled official action to thwart the scheme.

While the government is investigating the evils resulting from the concentration of ownership of our natural resources in the hands of a few individuals and corporations, and is considering recommendations for government ownership of certain public utilities, Congress is facing the other way by proposing to give away, practically free, some of the most valuable natural resources that still pertain to the public domain.

The Senate has passed the Shields waterpower bill which, according to the published statement by Gifford Pinchot, President of the National Conservation Association, makes a free gift, to the waterpower interests, of public waterpowers on our navigable streams estimated at sixty million horsepower, or double the power of every kind now used to run every train, trolley, factory, shop, mill, boat, mine and electric plant in the United States. This bill has passed the House, but in a different and better form. It is now in Committee of Conference to determine the form which shall finally be adopted, and it is claimed that the waterpower interests expect to control the action of the Conference. This raid on the public property failed at the previous session because the editors of the country rallied to the defense of the public rights, and the bill was postponed until after election.

The Myers bill, now on the Senate calendar for early consideration at the present session, does for the waterpowers on the public lands what the Shields bill does on navigable streams.

These two bills are bad enough, but the oil lands provisions of the Phelan bill, now before Congress, are even worse. Mr. Pinchot says: "This bill disposes of vast areas of public oil lands on terms unfair to the public. It is almost unbelievable, but this measure actually gives away the fuel oil reserves of the United States Navy to claimants whom the Supreme Court recently declared to have no legal rights whatever. The efficiency of the Navy, our first and most important line of National defense, is to be sacrificed for the profits of the Standard Oil Company, the Santa Fe Railroad interests, and a few other claimants, who want what they have no right to get."

The Navy Department has entered a vigorous protest on the ground that: "Oil burning naval vessels possess such manifold military advantages over coal burning vessels that it would be practically suicidal from a military point of view for the Navy Department to abandon the policy of building oil burning ships," but the passage of the Phelan bill would probably compel the Navy Department to return to coal burning ships for want of a reliable source of oil supply.

These three iniquitous bills may yet be killed if our Senators and Congressmen hear from their constituents on this subject at once. Don't you think the government should retain ownership of its oil lands and develop its waterpowers for the benefit of the people? Now is the time for the people to raise the hue and cry, and lock the stable before these three horses are stolen.

COMFORT'S EDITOR.

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A New Year Eve Adventure

By Joseph F. Novak

(See front cover illustration)

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SHUDDERING with the cold as an icy blast of wind swooped down upon him, John Gray thrust his hands deeper into his pockets, drew his head into his collar in the manner of a tortoise, and shivering into himself as if to expose as little of his bulk to the wind as possible, he trudged on.

It was snowing, a blinding, wet, sleeky down-pour, which covered street and sidewalk with ankle-deep, whitening slush, and frosted the tall buildings whose high tops seemed to vanish into the night.

Gray lolloped along; it was late and near to the close of the Old Year. The inclement weather kept the city streets well vacated, and those who celebrated the New Year Wassall were cozily ensconced in warm, brightly-lighted cafes.

Gray felt himself an outcast, and indeed he had been for sometime, having been only that day released from the "cooler," convict parlance for the jail. But his record there had been a good one, and he had had the usual time deducted for good behavior. This incarceration had been his first, but he had deserved it and he knew it. It had come about through a drunken brawl.

He passed a gaily-lighted *vaudeville*, which held forth a welcome. Almost unconsciously, he passed the back of his hand over his lips, and hesitated. But only for a moment, for presently, the thought of the sermon he had heard in jail on Christmas Day, the week before, came back to him, and with it, the resolution he had made to hit the straight trail when he was freed. Tomorrow would see the birth of the New Year, this eve was that appointed for the death of the old, and with it, he hoped, of his old life. Tomorrow a New Year would arise, like a Phoenix from the ashes of the old, he too wished that he might rise, a new man, endowed with new life and new good.

But his resolution weakened as he saw the resorts of the wealthy, where money flowed for vanities and nonsense. What a little of it would be required to put him on his feet.

He wandered on, passing more brilliantly lighted cafes, hotels and clubs. In the windows hung withered holly framing wishes for a happy New Year.

"Happy New Year," he read bitterly, "much of a happy New Year it is for one who is cold and miserable and hungry and just out of the cooler."

And now suddenly, through the shrieking wind, church bells clanged out and factory whistles screamed, proclaiming the arrival of the New Year. In spite of himself, Gray's pulses quickened. Perhaps he was too easily discouraged; one couldn't always expect to find a job within twelve hours of their release from jail. Besides he was cold and tired; possibly the best thing to do would be to go to his "five-cent flop," and perhaps the morrow would bring forth better luck. Yes, that would be the best plan—sleep and rest for the time being, and trust in the message of the clanging heralds of the New Year.

He had walked a considerable distance from the business section of the city, and now trudged along a boulevard whereon faced fashionable hotels, clubs and restaurants. The street was almost deserted, but the gaily lighted windows, and at the curb the congregated motors, told of the merry-making within.

Gray turned about to return to the business section wherein was located the "flop," and started to walk at a brisk pace, but as he was crossing an alley, he happened to notice what seemed a human form, crunched in a heap. The alley was dark and forbidding, but to a man who is down and out, there is no danger in darkness, and so Gray went to investigate.

He reached the prostrate form and found it to be a man indeed. He was lying on his side, his eyes closed. He was clad in an opera coat and dress suit, and his white shirt front was nicely splashed with sleet and mud.

"Drunk, I suppose," Gray murmured with himself. "One of those little sons of the rich, evidently. But still, he can't lie here. I guess I'd better call the police."

He felt the man's pulse, thinking he might be frozen. But he was still warm. Then with a hasty glance around, to assure himself that no one observed him, Gray felt into the man's pocket. His hand encountered what seemed to be a well-filled purse. Then he went to the man's vest and saw he wore a watch and chain with a heavily jeweled charm.

Temptation beckoned.

"No," Gray fought with the tempter, "no, I won't take it, though it's no more than this 'soak' deserves."

A sudden thought came to him.

"Suppose I bring him safely home? When he found his valuables safe, he'd probably believe in my sincerity in wishing to hit the straight trail, and maybe he'd help to get me a job of some kind. A fellow like this probably could, I believe I'll do it."

I took out the purse and from it a calling card. Then gathering the inert form in his arms, he brought the man to his feet, and with his arm about his shoulder, Gray half carried, half walked him down the alley to a bleary light. In the flare of which, he read the name and address on the card he had taken from the man's purse.

"Marvin Lyford, 4225 Drive Boulevard."

"Went down the last minute on his way home," thought Gray, for the address on Drive Boulevard was but a few blocks distant.

Avoiding those wherever possible, Gray bore his burden along. Once he encountered a pedestrian, but this individual evidently decided that Gray was the chosen pilot for the gentleman with two sheets in the wind, and so said nothing.

The address on Drive Boulevard was an ultra-fashionable looking old residence, with broad, snow-covered lawns, unbroken by a single step.

Gray helped the man up the steps and rang the bell, but though he rang several times, there came no answer. Even the servants, it seemed, were away.

Gray was undecided as to what to do now, but finally chanced searching the man for his keys. These he found, and one of them opened the door.

It was an odd sensation, this breaking into a house, but Gray now felt himself under the instructions of the man he brought home, so he closed the door, found the electric switch and turned on the light, then looked around.

The light, softly shaded, revealed a rich reception room, with rich hangings to the left which suggested an entrance to luxuriously furnished drawing-rooms beyond. To the right was a massive staircase leading to rooms above. Up this stair, Gray carried his charge and sat him in a hall seat while he examined the rooms which opened on to the corridor, until he came to one which he decided might belong to Mr. Lyford. So he left it lit up and went out into the hall and brought the man into the room and laid him on the bed.

But now he observed something that caused him to smother an involuntary oath and the next minute to investigate. The fellow was bleeding! He leaned close to the prostrate man's face. That breath was not that of a drunkard. The man was hurt. Had he been assaulted? And if he had, how came it that his assailants had not robbed him?

Feeling that he might just as well go the limit now that he had gone so far, Gray quickly undressed the unconscious man and found that he had been shot!

turned on the water. He found it at a boiling point, it being kept so by the automatic gas heater. He filled a basin with the water and picking up several towels, he washed, and then roughly dressed the wound, and this finished, he bethought himself of his next step.

He must call a doctor. But who? Most people had their own family doctor—ah, possibly this very necessary person's phone number might be on a slip with the fire and police call which most people kept handy for emergency tacked up beside the phone. He would see.

So Gray went down stairs and prowled around until he came to the phone in the high-ceiled number library, and luckily he found a phone index, and on it the name of "Dr. Stone" whom, he concluded, was the family doctor and the one to be summoned.

He picked up the receiver and called the doctor.

After a time, he got a connection, and a sleepy voice answered that the doctor could be reached at the Century Club if the call was urgent. And the number of the club was given.

Gray thanked the sleepy voice, and when the line was free again, he called the Century Club.

"Dr. Stone, please, I must talk to him. An urgent case."

For some moments he sat rigid at the phone. Then a voice answered.

"Hello," Gray shouted into the transmitter. "Dr. Stone? I am calling from the Lyford residence. Marvin Lyford has been shot and your services are required. I don't know how serious the matter is."

Odd that a doctor should be so astounded at the news. But there was no doubt that he had been, for he had smothered an exclamation. Was it of horror, surprise or amazement? Gray, listening, could not determine. Oh, too, that a doctor should stammer over the matter.

"Am I sure this is the Lyford residence at 4225 Drive Boulevard? Of course, . . . Do hurry, I'm afraid the man has lost a great deal of blood," said Gray. Still the doctor at the other end of the wire seemed to hesitate.

"Which Lyford is it? I don't know. Marvin is the name, a man who appears to be about thirty-five years old. Who am I? Oh, don't argue, just come. You don't know me, you've never seen me before. . . . Well, if you don't come, I shall call someone else. . . . Oh, you will? Very well, then, I'll wait for you. In fifteen minutes? Good, the sooner the better. Thank you. Good by."

"Fool," growled Gray. "You'd think rich little boys can try adventurous stunts and always come away with a whole skin. Well, I hope that 'quack' hurries."

He sat down to await the coming of the doctor, and while waiting, he studied the uncon-

scious man's face. It was not a prepossessing face. It was in a way, handsome, but not the kind of handsomeness that suggests good nature or benevolence. Rather it was of a hard, sneering sort, and altogether disagreeable when closely observed. It was made further disagreeable in appearance by a peculiar little break in the lip, much as if the man had had his mouth "smashed" at one time. But evidently he was a gentleman and debonaire, for his garments, both outer and under were of most expensive material.

Gray decided that he had probably had his trouble for nothing, but he would see, nevertheless.

A little gold clock on a table nearby slowly ticked off the minutes, and after ten of them had gone, the bell rang.

The doctor, of course, so Gray hurried down the stairs and opened the door.

Two men stood on the threshold, one with a small case in his hand, the doctor, and another man, seemingly about twenty-five years of age. He was a nice-looking, boyish young man, with a healthy glow in his cheeks and his lustrous eyes seemed unduly excited.

"My assistant," said Doctor Stone, as Gray eyed the young man. "Where is Lyford?"

"Up-stairs, and you'd better hurry. I didn't know he had been—"

Gray got no further, for the "assistant" had slowly circled behind him. The next minute, a strong, healthy young arm came about his throat, and an uncomfortable looking revolver was thrust into his face, and as for me, well I simply piloted Lyford home, that's all."

"Don't move, or you'll get this!" the young man threatened. Then turning to the doctor, he said: "Better tie him up, and I'll watch the stairway for any others."

"But I say!" exclaimed the bewildered Gray. "What's the matter with you? What do you think I am? Let me explain, won't you?"

"Shut up," answered the doctor pleasantly. "You'll have plenty of time for explanations. How many more of you are there in the house?"

"Why, look here! Man alive! What do you think?" persisted Gray, though he made no effort to loose himself from his bonds. "There's no one else in the house, and as for me, well I simply piloted Lyford home, that's all."

"Oh, you did, did you?" said the doctor, pleasantly sarcastic. "You certainly have the brass, though. But you're bailed up on your game. Careful, boy," he cautioned to the young man, who, having lighted the rooms down-stairs, now started up the staircase.

Suddenly from above, there came a wild yell of laughter, and the voice of the young man, saying:

"Good Lord, doctor, are we dreaming? What kind of 'con' game is this? Bring that fellow up here!"



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AN informal Holiday Party which comes after the stress of Christmas "preparedness," is a welcome diversion, and should reflect the gaiety of the season. The house, already in holiday attire, is a point gained, so that one's entire attention may be directed toward other features.

A calendar party suggests itself as appropriate, and it may be elaborated or simple as individual taste prescribes; but, however simple, it is of necessity picturesque because of the variety and color which are introduced.

Invitations, suggestive of the season, request each guest to represent a certain month of the year, or one of the four seasons—in any way, of course, which the ingenuity of the guest dictates.

The months are easily differentiated by several distinguishing characteristics, such as holiday events, weather conditions, sports peculiar to them, etc.; and as practically every month admits of double treatment, the hostess is enabled to extend her guest list by repeating the month without monotony. For instance, January has the New Year, and mid-winter sports; February, Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, and St. Valentine's; March, St. Patrick's day, and the "don" and "lamb" weather; next comes April Fool's day, showers, and the opening of the baseball season; May brings May day, moving day, and spring flowers; June, roses, Flag day, and commencement; July suggests Uncle Sam, Columbia, and Fourth of July symbols; August, Emancipation day, and the end of summer; then come Labor Day and Columbus day for September and October, respectively, also hints of autumn; November gives us Thanksgiving and Election day; then Christmas, and the end of the year for December. Discernment on the part of the hostess, in designating who shall represent what, will add much to the interest of the occasion.

Entertainment features should carry out the general idea of the party, an element of contest adding zest, and furnishing the excuse for prizes or suitable souvenirs. Thus, a calendar game: Small envelopes, each containing a card bearing the name of a different month, are drawn by, or distributed at random, among the guests. The letters composing the names of the month are to be used, in sequence, as the initial letters of words will combine into a telegram, or an epigram; or, for a New Year party, into a "toast" or a "resolution." Example: Epigrams for March—Malice And Revenge Confound Happiness, Maid And Romance Connote Happiness. Toast for May, Here's to "Me And You."

This done, each guest replaces the card in the envelope, upon which he writes his name; the envelopes are then exchanged, and the contents are read aloud without revealing the names of the writers—a vote being taken to decide upon the prize winner. The one requirement in judg-

ing these compositions is that they make good sense, though some latitude (such as *phonetic* spelling) might be allowed in working in difficult initials; or, if toasts or resolutions are chosen as a subject, the words "Here's to" or "I resolve," would be understood.

Other calendar suggestions, to furnish amusement, follow:

(1.) A Calendar Marathon, or a tight-rope race is represented by extending a narrow white or red ribbon across the floor, changing its direction at four points, significant of the seasons, but in reality, to make the race a little more difficult. Each guest is asked to walk the rope, from season to season, by looking at his feet through the reverse end of opera glasses; this gives one a sense of elevation, which affects the equilibrium, and it is highly amusing. Prizes may be awarded either for time or distance, as they may not all reach the end of the year.

(2.) Twelve lighted candles, suggestive of the months of the year, are placed on the floor at intervals convenient for walking in and out between each two of them. The guests, in turn, are blindfolded and asked to walk through the line of candles without touching them—the real amusement centering in the first and last candidates, who should be wisely chosen as to temperament, etc. A woman of conspicuous dignity is chosen first, and as she threads her way between the candles, she is kindly admonished against the flame catching her skirts; but when the blindfold is removed, she finds that the candles were "snuffed" before she began her tortuous way. The intermediate candidates, who care to participate, merely avoid, if possible, touching the candles. The last one, however, is the "smart" man who is always "getting one" on the other fellow, and as he cautiously maneuvers, he is constantly warned to look out for May, July, or September; but, at last, proud of his success, the handkerchief is taken from his eyes to disclose the fact that all of the candles had been removed after he was blindfolded. A paper fool's cap is a suitable reward for his skill.

A date game, requiring a little thought, may also be introduced. Cards, or slips of paper (corresponding to number of guests) bear the heading "Discoveries and Inventions." Below is a list of dates, at the right of which is the corresponding discovery or invention written with the letters transposed. Example: 1875 plenteche. (Inv.) Answer. Telephone.

Interest is increased if the dates cover a wide range in time and subject; for instance, from the invention of printing—the discovery of the Hudson river or Anesthesia, to present day utilities, such as the automobile, aeroplane, wireless, etc. An element of humor may be injected by including political issues.

Example: 1912 IonMseloB. (Inv. patent repudiated). Ans. Bull Moose. "Watchful waiting," preparedness, hyphenism, may be similarly used.

Gray was marched up the stairs and ushered into the room where he had lately left his charge. The fellow was still lying on the bed just as he had left him, and the young man and the doctor looked at each other and roared, but there was a note of grimness in their mirth, nevertheless.

"Patch him up, Stone, and I'll call the police," said the young fellow. "Some turn things have taken! It seems to be our inning now."

The doctor gave his attention to the man on the bed, while the young fellow gave his attention to Gray.

"Do you know who that fellow is?" demanded the young fellow. He was a nice young chap, and seemed incapable of the melodramatic actions he had included a short time before.

"I don't know him," Gray returned. "But from his cards and the name on his purse, I suppose he is Marvin Lyford."

"Where is the purse?" questioned the young fellow.

"In the drawer of that dresser, together with Lyford's watch and keys."

The young man went to the drawer, opened it and seemed amazed. He quickly scanned the contents of the purse and seemed satisfied.

He turned about, and Gray felt the keen eyes search his face. The face that was scanned was not bad, nor vicious. It was worn and thin, but not sneaking nor dishonest, only a little weak, the face of a man who had struggled with life, had tried to taste of its gaudies and in an evil moment had lost.

Gray felt the inventory of his face, of his thin, worn suit, poor shoes and old linen. And too he felt kindness and sympathy come into the eyes that "sized him up."

At length the young fellow spoke.

"Tell me all about it."

And Gray did. Told of having been released from jail in the afternoon of New Year's Eve, of his resolution to go straight, of his inability to find a job, and of his hope that the next day would bring something and of his decision to go to a lodging house and sleep, when he noted an inert figure, well dressed, lying in an alley.

"I thought he had two sheets in the wind, and that he fell down, dead drunk. I knew the simplest way out of the matter would be to call the police, but when I saw the expensive watch, and felt the big roll, I thought I'd bring him home, and then, when he was out of his cups, I'd tell him what I had done. You see my interest was selfish. But anyhow, I thought this way he'd see that I wanted to be honest and would give me a hand, for it would have been easy for me to pick his pocket and steal his watch. But instead, I picked him up and half-carried, half-walked him home, and then when I brought him here, I saw that he was bleeding. I looked for the phone and found Dr. Stone's number and supposing he was Lyford's family doctor, I called him. And—well, I guess I needn't go on," and Gray smiled faintly, his smile keeping company with the one dancing about the young man's lips.

"You've told your story, my man, now let me tell you mine. I am a member of the Century Club, a club wherein we are all equals. We don't consider it necessary to put our things under lock and key. Well, a gentleman with high references visited us, and he was welcomed heartily. During the evening someone suggested a game of bowling and we went down to the bowling alley with this gentleman of high repute, Mr. St. Claire Lee of New York and Richmond.

"We took off our coats and vests and started in to bowl, when Mr. Lee begged to be excused. He was detected in the act of vanishing without bidding us farewell, and almost simultaneously, I noticed that my dress-coat was missing, and it contained my purse in which I had nearly a thousand dollars, to say nothing of my watch, chain and charm worth probably fifteen hundred. Mr. Lee was making an exit in an unconventional manner when he was called to halt, and not obeying instructions, he was plugged. He ran and we followed. But not being detectives, we didn't know he'd shelter himself in the building where he was most wanted, and of course we didn't look for him under our noses. From your story, I think you found this man in an alley alongside the Century Club. I happen to be Marvin Lyford and the gentleman on the bed is an industrial guest, Mr. St. Claire Lee of New York and Richmond, but more appropriately known as 'Lightning Change Larry' of Sing Sing. You have apprehended a slick crook, my man, and that's an accomplishment. Allow me to congratulate you," and he held out his hand.

Gray, astounded, nevertheless took the proffered hand. It was warm and boyish and thrilled with life and health.

"Now tell me your name, and what you did before you spent some time—er, of enforced seclusion as a guest of the county," Lyford went on mischievously.

"John Gray's my name, and I was a chauffeur," Gray replied, hoping he could get a similar job.

"Guess I can fix you up on that," commented Lyford. "Now, you'd better be my guest for tonight, for I don't want you to go back to the retreat of tramps and hoboes. That's beneath the dignity of a sleuth when he's out on the job. How's that fellow?" Lyford suddenly interpolated, turning to the doctor.

"He's popped pretty badly and may be done for," returned the doctor. "You'd better hurry that polle! call."

Lyford went down to the telephone, and after a wait of some time, an ambulance came and very quietly the wounded crook was carried to the ambulance and then to the hospital of the jail. His injury proved fatal a few days later.

After the man was taken away, Dr. Stone bade the young man good night, apologizing to Gray for the rough treatment, and left. Gray was alone with his new-found friend.

"I'll try and rouse up the servants and see if we can't have something to eat," Lyford now said, "and in the meantime, you'd better take a bath."

Gray accepted gratefully, and when he had finished, he clad himself in a suit of Lyford's pajamas, which though rather short (for Gray was much taller than Lyford) did very well. Then he put on the bath-robe and stepped into the bedroom.

Lyford likewise had disrobed and now lounged in comfortable negligence. The butler had been roused up and had managed to get together a light lunch that tasted good to Gray after his rather strenuous night.

The lunch finished, the two men chatted a while, then Lyford suggested bed, at the same time giving Gray the big comfortable day-pony on which to sleep for the butler had placed soft pillows and heavy blankets upon it.

Lyford soon fell asleep, but Gray, though comfortable beyond dreams, laid awake thoughtfully, wondering if it were not all a dream. When morning came, it found him still in his reverie.

Presently Lyford awoke, and calling out a cheery good morning, he got up and threw his bath-robe about him.

"I'm playing bachelor," he said, "for the rest of the family are everywhere, I guess" (meaning that the various members of the family were in various places as guests). He threw back the heavy window hangings, and ran up the shade. The snow was still falling, but it fell less tempestuously. The world gleamed in wondrous purity.

"New Year's Day," Lyford said, "a clean, white, spotless day. A good time for us to make New Year resolutions, one of which will be that we'll be good friends. Shake!"

They did, the man of wealth and leisure and the outcast who had been reclaimed.

Put upon his mettle, Gray made good, as the passing of the days showed.

Big Washington, Lincoln and Valentine Number

coming in February, will be large in size and great in interest, with more good stories and instructive and entertaining reading matter than has appeared in any one issue for a year. Have a good laugh over the illustrated Lincoln jokes, learn how to make your own valentines, how to get up a Valentine Luncheon and a Washington-Lincoln Birthday Party and how to make the special cakes, sweets and all the other fixings for them.

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Nerine's Second Choice



Stooping over her sister she stirred the fire into a blaze.



As they vanished in the chilly passdée, the bell, with one final reverberation, stopped.

By Adelaide Stirling

Kit pushed Maurice's eager hands and smooth cool face away angrily—ungratefully.

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THE January evening had darkened down early in fine showers of rain and sleet. A damp, cutting draught came in at the window seat just where Nerine Lispenard knelt where she had knelt in spite of it for the past twenty minutes, her face pressed against the cold window pane.

Before her the garden lay dark, wintry, sodden; just down by the gate were dimly to be seen through the sleet the lamps of a small brougham, waiting there as it had waited, Nerine thought, for centuries.

As she made this reflection for the tenth time the lights, with a jerk and a plunge, vanished. There was nothing now to see but the gloom, yet the girl still stared uncertainly out through the glass, all blurred by her breath.

Had those lamps really gone—gone to the station—or had they merely been sent back to the stable?

The door of the room behind her opened quickly, and there came in two girls, one as tall as Nerine herself, the other a tiny creature, but both laughing like two elves.

"Gone! gone! gone!" cried the foremost. "But oh, my heart was in my mouth!"

"He passed me on the very doorstep!" The little girl was a mere bundle of wraps and furs as she came into the firelight. "If the sleet had not been driving into his august countenance he must have seen me."

"No!" cried Nerine, joyfully. She leaped forward and made a dive at the speaker. "You dear Kit, how did you ever get here?"

"I walked," said Miss Belton, sedately. "From the station, that is. Something told me he might have missed his train, so that I did not engage the wheels of a chariot. My boxes repose in the waiting-room in consequence."

"He missed two trains," observed the tall girl, who was Miss Lispenard the elder, as she sat down on the hearth rug and spread out two chilled hands to the fire. "And he was on the point of countermanding the carriage this last time, till I thought despair would have killed me."

There was no note of laughter in her voice; her tragic gesture was perfectly serious and equally serious her sister's response.

"Thank heaven! For one blessed month we are rid of him."

"Is he any worse—then?" inquired Miss Belton, taking off her outer garments and casting them on the floor.

Nerine looked at her.

"Worse? Not even he could be worse and remain human. My dearest Kit, this is a frightful place you have come to; you will hardly have the comforts of life. Stooping over her sister, she stirred the fire into a blaze that lighted up the bare old room. "You shall hear the worst," she said. "Never say that we did not prepare you for three weeks of bread and scrape."

Agatha Lispenard, Nerine's elder by five minutes, looked up judicially.

"Don't frighten her," she said. "She will go home tomorrow if she thinks we are as poor as all that."

Kitty Belton put a quick hand on Agatha's shoulder.

"Agatha," she cried, "you forget. You said—reproachfully—"that if I came we would do like men who keep bachelor's hall, pay share and share alike."

"I may have said it"—dryly—"but I didn't mean it. You know, Kit, that Nerine and I have always been like you."

"Very well," Miss Belton got up and picked her wet hat off the floor. "But if I am not to share expenses I am going to catch the six-thirty train back to Belton."

"You will catch nothing like it!" exclaimed Nerine.

"Unless Agatha keeps her promise," pining on her hat. "I mean it. I am angry—furious!"

"Oh, pay it all, if you like!" Agatha said, crossly. "So long as you stay. We can't spend a fortune, even with the most riotous living. Only think," she went on, her lovely face flushing. "he has dismissed all the servants but the kitchen maid, and the horses are to go out for exercise only, no matter how much we want them. Are you prepared, Kit, to make your own bed of a morning?"

"And to lie on it at night," said Kit, discarding her hat once more. "Is that all he's done? I thought he had probably left out just so much groceries and provisions, and had sent written orders to the grocer and butcher regulating your allowances."

Agatha looked at Nerine in curious silence. Kit's jest, for some reason, fell flat.

There was a brief silence, and then Kate asked:

"Now, girls—both of you—where do you think he's gone?"

"Kametchatka!" said Nerine, idly wondering

if she ought not to go and assist Jane with the evening meal.

"He went," said Agatha, deliberately, "to Monte Carlo."

"Monte Carlo?" cried Nerine. "Mr. Mayne went to—"

"Monte Carlo," with a nod of her black head. "How do I know? He gave Jones an address to which his letters were to be forwarded, and Jones lost the card. I suspect he would have been severely reproved by Mr. Mayne, for I met him standing outside the door afraid to knock. He could have let me walk on him when I produced the precious card."

"You gave it to him? How could you? The man is a reptile."

He is better than his master, even so. Fancy the old hypocrite, who says 'Cards and dancing are the vices of the century,' and she imitated the clear-cut enunciation of a familiar voice. "He would have to get to heaven as best he might if his beloved Plymouth Brethren knew where he was going."

"I hope he'll gamble away all his money," Nerine said, earnestly. Had not all that money been ground out of her and hers, saved off their young backs, out of their hungry mouths for this past ten years? Ever since their mother had died and left them unreservedly to the tender stepfatherly care of Clarence Mayne.

"I wonder," said Kitty Belton, "how your mother came to marry him?"

"Poor little mother!" Agatha said. "She was only twenty-seven when she died, and she had lived such a pleasant, easy life all her days that she never thought there was any other sort possible."

"Did she leave him everything?" asked Kit, more as a sign of sympathy than anything else, for she knew the Lispenard tragedy-comedy by heart.

"Only till we are twenty-one," cried both sisters in a breath. "Then horses, income—everything is ours!"

Nerine stared at the fire with an unpleasant look in her gray eyes.

"And then," she remarked, slowly, "there will be short work of Clarence Mayne. Puff! He will go like that puff of smoke there will when the fire begins to blaze."

"There are really only ten months more," said Agatha, briskly. "We are twenty now, Kit."

"Old Mayne has made the most of the last ten years," Nerine went on, somberly. "He has saved and pinched and scraped! Kit, you should see our garments. But when you do," smiling sadly, "I don't believe you will care to walk out with us."

"But he can't save much on his own account," said Kit. "He has two horses, and he spares no expense at the club."

"He has two horses," Agatha assented, "but he can't help that. There was some clause in the will about that. He would infinitely prefer two donkeys!" laughing. "He can't ride. And when he drives in the brougham he sits always with one hand on the door."

"Don't talk about him!" Nerine cried. "There are only ten months more of his regime, and for one month of that he will be away. Kit, how did you get your people to let you come to us?"

With a deal of trouble, Miss Belton might have said truthfully. Clarence Mayne's house was not in the best of odor with the world, nor were Agatha and Nerine themselves precisely regarded with approval. Perhaps no one ever understands exactly why other people are not what they are.

Sir William and Lady Belton thought that their cousin's children might have managed better, been bolder, braver than they were. Surely they need not have shut themselves up as they did till their father's old friends, beyond a yearly call, left unreturned for months, knew nothing of them. And when they were invited to Belton they need not always have sent a polite refusal!

It was with a mule's obstinacy that Kit had obtained permission to go and stay with cousins whose conduct was chiefly remarkable for eccentricity. But come she had and she passed over Nerine's question skillfully.

"Oh, I wanted to come," was all she said. "No wonder the girls had refused to go to Belton at Christmas," she thought, as the fire blazed up and she saw the woefully shabby dresses they wore. "Mamma could never be made to understand that a man who called himself a gentleman could refuse his stepdaughters' gowns to wear."

Clarence Mayne's cleverness was a complete concealment of art. He was an interloper, all but an adventurer, when he married Mrs. Lispenard. But on those rare occasions when he had encountered the hostile Lispenard connections, the charm of his perfect manners had made them forget those undeniable facts. Just as the rector of St. Jude's, when he found that on the death of Mrs. Mayne church subscriptions would cease, could say nothing to Mr. Mayne's discredit when that gentleman confessed to him that he belonged as he did to the strictest division of the Plymouth Brethren, his conscience could not al-

low of his assisting in the smallest degree in the work of the Established Church.

As for that business of Maurice Lispenard, doubtless Mr. Mayne was to be blamed. The boy who should, in the natural course of events, have gone to Eton and Oxford, had gone, in simple fact, nowhere beyond the scanty earnings instilled by his sisters and picked up by his reading; he knew no more than any plowboy. But Maurice must have had low tastes and little regard for learning; perhaps, as Mr. Mayne delicately implied, he had been urged in vain to embark on the ordinary course of education, but had gone his own way, which had ended in going to Liverpool to learn to be a mechanical engineer, a Lispenard in a leather apron, toiling in a grimy, oily workshop, with hands such as the Beltons had never imagined could belong to one of good birth! Hands black, rough, ingrained with dust and oil; but in very truth capable hands, which went well with Maurice Lispenard's acute, inventive brain.

Only the boys' sisters knew exactly how he had lowered his pride to entreat his stepfather for the education which was his right. Only they knew the slightest, curiously wavy of the hand with which Clarence Mayne had dismissed those appeals as one silences an importunate, spoiled child.

Only they knew that Maurice had gone off to Liverpool to work as an ordinary apprentice because he had no other way of entering any occupation at all, and dared not to live for two years more in the same house with Clarence Mayne.

Nerine breathed more freely since Maurice was gone.

Lispenard House was no place for a lad, set as it was, in a growing town, an island with its huge walled garden in the midst of populous streets. It had once been a country retreat, with a park, of which there was nothing left now but the enormous garden, in the midst of which the old house stood. But the house and garden were of great value, as Clarence Mayne well knew when he paid court to John Lispenard's widow, and it was not till he was safely married to her that he discovered how really immovable the property was tied up.

Mrs. Mayne knew nothing of such things and cared less. She was a Canadian girl, whom John Lispenard had married during that wild, adventurous life of his in the New World. He was an only son and an orphan, with but one blood relation in the world, the Lady Belton, who was Mrs. Mayne's mother. He had left England when he came of age, and for the rest of his life was virtually lost.

All Lady Belton ever heard of him were the presents which now and then reached her from various out-of-the-way places; a letter or two telling of his marriage and enclosing a photograph of his wife, and then after an interval of some years a letter from his disconsolate widow, mentioning his death in a mining accident in Nova Scotia, as though Lady Belton already knew all about it. The point of the letter was in the postscript of three pages. She was going to be married to Mr. Clarence Mayne, and they and their three dear children, who would now have a second father, were coming to England to live at Lispenard House, which the writer had never yet seen. Would Lady Belton get them respectable maids who would be ready to come to them as soon as they arrived?

Arrive they did in due course. Mrs. Mayne as tall, handsome and unpractical as when John Lispenard had married her; her new husband inexpressibly unobjectionable, with manners which might have been acquired at the court of old France; small and clear cut as to features, with blue eyes which had too cold and direct a gaze for most people to meet. The three children were unmistakable Lispenards, apparently about the ages of five and four. Lady Belton thought them wonderfully well grown for their age, when, at Mrs. Mayne's sudden death about a year after her arrival in England, Mr. Mayne told her they were but four and three, but then, both their parents had been very tall and robust.

Mrs. Mayne, on her arrival in England, made that will which was so soon to be needed. As the lawyer discussed the matter with her, she discovered how very little she had to leave.

Lispenard House and Lispenard money were all strictly entailed. She left Clarence Mayne his income until the two elder children of her first husband should be of age; then it had to go to the male heir in the direct line, not from any will of John Lispenard, but by that of his father.

When Maurice was old enough to understand his position he vowed to himself that there should be share and share alike between himself and his twin sisters. They should have as much right in Lispenard House as he, and as much money made over to them. If the third was not enough to enable him to live in his father's house as his father's son should, he would have a profession and by it earn a sufficient income.

Kit was the boy's only confident, and she veered between admiration and disgust at his purpose like a weathercock, to which her father's

and mother's worldly-wise opinions and her affection for Agatha and Nerine played north and south winds.

She had come across her cousins about two years ago, while staying with some people in the neighborhood, and had been their fast friends ever since.

"Girls," Kit cried, shaking off the thoughtful silence which had fallen upon the three in the big room, where the fire played fitfully from bare floor and scant furniture to vaulted ceiling, "how much money have you? I mean what is the exact amount of your present funds?"

Agatha laughed where she still sat on the hearth rug, her long white hands clasped round the knees of her shabby dress.

"Funds, my dear! Call them riches," she cried. "We have really, truly and absolutely, besides the three sovereigns doled out for our month's support by our beloved stepfather, fifteen pounds."

"Where did you get it?" Kit asked, bluntly, though it was not a particularly large sum to her.

"We made it," Nerine said. What pretty boots Kit had on, and she would burn them in a minute. "Kit, your boots are touching the grate!" warningly.

"Of course! I'm drying them," as the triumphs of the shoemaker's art hissed loudly on the hot bars. "Tell me about the money."

"We have a friend," said Agatha, mysteriously, "and he gave unto us money for empty words."

"Nonsense!" Nerine's cheeks turned red. "You know we never saw him, nor he us, Kit. We saw an advertisement in the Piccadilly Budget for short stories and we wrote two—"

"And got eight guineas apiece for them!" Agatha broke in, triumphantly. "We spent a pound on some things we wanted, and we've fifteen to maintain us during the next three weeks. How," with a long sigh of pleasure, "shall we ever do it?"

In Kit's pocket were two ten-pound notes, not counting loose gold and silver. Lady Belton had said she was to be sure to buy Agatha and Nerine some trifling present, furs or anything they cared about having. And her money burned in her pocket. But she would wait until she knew what they wanted.

She yawned involuntarily with weariness, and Nerine saw it.

"Agatha it is half past six and we quite forgot in getting the old man off that Kit had had no tea."

She stooped to the wide hearth, where the grate had been an after thought of economical Mr. Mayne's, and lighted a candle, whose feeble flame brightened slowly and shone on the two Lispenard heads, black and smooth as silk, and on the rioting, curled head of little Kit, like tangled floss of gold.

Kit was pale. She had not, tenderly cultured flower though she was, the strength of the Lispenards, who had grown up like weeds. And she had eaten nothing since morning.

"Take her up-stairs, Agatha, and give her a pair of my shoes," Nerine said. "And we'll have tea at once, so don't be long. The fatted calf"—laughing—"is only a chicken, and cold!"

CHAPTER II.

KIT'S SECRET.

Agatha gathered Kit's costly wraps under one arm and slipped the other round Kit herself, who carried the candle, dropping it plentifully by the way.

Along the empty balustrade passages the two passed silently as two ghosts. The great house was strangely quiet to Kit, for there was not a servant nor a light to be seen all through their journey to the room got ready in secrecy for the expected guest.

Big as it was, it was cozy and even cheerful. The old-fashioned chintz hangings of the bed were gay with shiny roses and parrots. The screen between the door and the fire was embroidered with cherry-colored ladies courtesying to blue-and-yellow gentlemen in white wigs. An old-fashioned cheval glass, set in carved flimsy mahogany, reflected the light of the fire, and two candles burned in high silver candelsticks on the chintz-hung toilet table.

It was an enormous contrast to Kit's little silk curtained nest at home, but she liked it. Who knew, she thought, looking around shyly as Agatha poured out hot water for her travel-weary face into the depths of a priceless basin, if some day she might not have this very room for her very own and live in it always? If—

Kit hid her face in the depths of the basin and sponged away her hot cheeks with the hotter water. She and Maurice Lispenard were only nineteen, and besides—

Kit's heart beat a little faster as she dried her renovated countenance. How much did Agatha know, she wondered, about her and Maurice?

"Kit," cried Agatha, "your skirts are all wet, and we haven't even sent for your boxes," hearing the suspicious swish with which the guest's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26.)



Comfort Sisters' Recipes

The COMFORT Sisters' Corner

This Department is conducted solely for the use of COMFORT sisters, whereby they may give expression to their ideas relative to the home and home surroundings, and to all matters pertaining to themselves and families; as well as opening a way for personal correspondence between each other.

Our object is to extend a helping hand to COMFORT subscribers; to become coworkers with all who seek friendship, encouragement, sympathy or assistance through the interchange of ideas.

Any abuse of this privilege, such as inviting correspondence for the purpose of offering an article for sale, or undertaking to charge a sum of money for ideas, recipes or information mentioned in any letter appearing in this department, if reported, will result in the offender being denied the use of these columns.

Do not ask us to publish letters requesting money contributions or donations of any sort. Much as we sympathize with the suffering and unfortunate, it is impossible to do this as we would be flooded with similar requests.

Do not request souvenir postals unless you have complied with the conditions which entitles you to such a notice. See postal request notice in another column.

We cordially invite mothers and daughters of all ages to write to COMFORT Sisters' Corner. Every letter will be carefully read and considered and then the most helpful ones chosen for publication, whether the writer be an old or new subscriber.

Please write only on one side of the paper, and recipes on a separate sheet.

Always give your correct and full name and address, very plainly written; otherwise your letter will receive no attention.

Address all letters for this department to Mrs. WHEELER WILKINSON, CARE COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

SHAKESPEARE tells us, "neither a borrower nor a lender be," and while we ordinary mortals would hardly presume to contradict that worthy gentleman, most of us will agree that borrowing and lending have advantages all their own. Not only is it a great convenience to the borrower but it gives the lender a feeling of satisfaction to be able to help a fellow man—or fellow woman since women are supposed to be addicted to the borrowing habit more strongly than men. Who knows, maybe the fair Anne borrowed enough coffee for the immortal William's breakfast (or whatever his favorite morning beverage was) but let us hope she returned it promptly, and that brings me to the real object of this little talk. Whether we believe in borrowing or whether we do not is immaterial in itself but if we do borrow, let's make it a point to "pay back." Particularly with the prevailing high prices it is really dishonest to borrow foodstuffs, even in small quantities, unless they are returned or full value given, though, of course, it is equally dishonest at lower prices, though the loss is not so much.

Aside from articles of that sort, most every household can boast (?) of other things too numerous and varied to mention that have been borrowed and never returned. Chief among these are books and there is nothing more distressing to a lover of books than to loan some cherished copy to a friend who promises faithfully to return it "just as soon as it is read" and then, if it is returned at all, to receive it in a sadly dilapidated condition.

A National Pay Back Day would be a good idea but in the meantime, while we are waiting for it to materialize, let's take an inventory of goods to be returned—and return them.—Ed.

DORCAS, OHIO.

DEAR SISTERS:

Many times I have heard people say that no matter what ailment they did not want to be taken to a hospital. I don't agree with them for if anyone has a sickness that their home doctor cannot cure and he thinks there would be a chance for their lives by being operated upon and not going to a hospital, it would be wicked on their part not to try.

Last spring I spent three weeks at a hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and I was treated as nicely as anyone could possibly be. The nurses were very kind. But for one thing I didn't try to see how much bother I could put them to. Some people think that because they are paying a good price for their care they should get their money's worth out of the nurses. There were six women and a little girl in the ward I was in and I feel safe in saying that one of these women was more bother than the rest of us put together. She wanted so much and was so fussy and disagreeable that the nurses did not like to wait on her and then she complained upon and not get the care she wanted. I got simply because we treated the nurses as we would want to be treated were we in their place. A nurse has a hard time of it at best and one told me it was a pleasure to wait on patients that were reasonable. Of course all hospitals may not be alike but in this one I was treated fine from the surgeon down and it wasn't because I had money either. They sympathized with the poor, suffering humanity that came there and that was why they pulled me through a serious operation and I feel thankful we have institutions like that where we can be taken care of.

I don't remember ever reading anything on this subject and I thought it might help some suffering sister that dreaded the hospital. I have read COMFORT since the days of Aunt Minerva and her owls and it will always be a welcome visitor in our home.

If any of the sisters have any good books they don't care for and will send them to me I will return favor with pink dahlia bulbs.

MRS. ALTA BEEGLE.

Mrs. Beegle. A friend of mine who is a trained nurse of several years' experience was calling on me recently and knowing she would be interested I let her read your letter which she was much pleased with, only she felt that you had omitted one important feature of nursing—that a "case" is merely a "case" to a nurse, or, in other words, no matter how disagreeable or provoking a sick person may be, they receive the same good care a more agreeable patient would receive, on the theory that particular way and that they are not really responsible for anything they may do or say. That is a very kind and charitable way of looking at it too, and quite the proper way, as all who have been ill will testify.—Ed.

COLUMBUS, N. C.

DEAR MR. GANNETT:

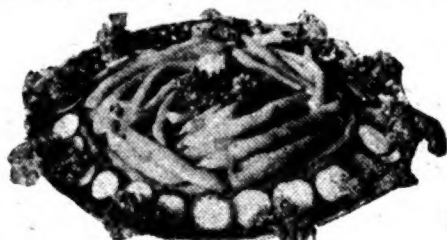
I wish you would publish a short appeal for me in COMFORT for I am in hopes some of the good sisters will help me get enough subscriptions for a wheel chair for my little daughter, Catherine. She is quite helpless and has never walked or stood alone as she has suffered all her life from spinal weakness. She cannot talk and I have to feed and care for her as I would an infant and now that she is growing so large

Of equal importance in the making and baking of bread is the care of it after it is baked.

Remove loaves at once from pans and place side down on a bread or cake cooler, or whatever is used for a substitute. For a crisp crust allow bread to cool without covering but if a soft crust is desired, cover with a towel while cooling though do not keep bread wrapped in cloth after it is put away as the cloth absorbs moisture and gives an unpleasant taste to the bread. When thoroughly cooled put in a tin box or stone jar and cover closely. The tin or jar should be scalded three times a week in cold water and every day in summer to prevent molding. Stale bread can be used in so many ways that it behooves the housewife to take care that none is wasted.

MEAT PIES.—Make crust as for any pie. For filling use one pound of leftover meat, cut into small pieces, one half pound fresh pork, cut up, and one onion. Put all together and boil one hour, adding pepper and salt to taste, and water enough to boil. Fill the crusts with the chopped meat, cover and bake in hot oven.

CALF'S LIVER AND BACON.—Fry bacon till crisp, but not hard and take out of fat. Cover liver with boiling water and soak fifteen minutes. Drain and wipe. Cut into strips about half an inch thick. Sprinkle with



CALF'S LIVER AND BACON.

salt and pepper, roll in flour and fry in the bacon fat. Do not cook liver hard. Five minutes will probably be long enough. Arrange bacon in center of platter with strips of liver around it and decorate with hominy balls to be served with liver and bacon.

HOMINY BALLS.—Bring to boil one cup of milk and one cup of water and add one half cup of hominy and one half teaspoon of salt and cook in a double boiler one hour. When cool shape in balls, dip in egg and crumbs and fry in deep fat.

SALMON FISH BALLS.—Two cups of minced canned salmon, one cup of mashed potatoes, one half cup of drawn butter, pinch of pepper and one quarter teaspoon of salt. Work in the potatoes with the salmon and moisten with the drawn butter until it is soft enough to mold and keep its shape. Roll the balls in flour or corn-meal and fry quickly to a golden brown in lard or cooking oil. Drain and serve on a hot platter. Miss BESSIE CHRISTENSEN, Rockwood, Tenn.

SCALLOPED OYSTERS, WITH MACARONI.—Break one half package of macaroni into small pieces and cook in boiling salted water one half hour. Drain. Cover the bottom of a baking dish with slices of thinly cut bread, stale preferred, then add a layer of macaroni, a layer of oysters, dot with small pieces of butter and add salt and pepper to taste, and a thin layer of finely rolled cracker crumbs. Proceed in this manner till the dish is filled, having the top layer of crumbs much thicker than the other layers. Beat one egg into one pint of milk and pour into the dish. Bake half an hour in a moderate oven.

VEGETABLE CUTLETS.—Boil seven large potatoes, mash, add butter, seasoning and enough hot milk to moisten. Chop three small onions and fry in butter. Cook separately ten small carrots and one small turnip. Chop and add with the onion to the potato. Season to taste and bread. Mold into small cutlets, dip in beaten egg and bread crumbs and fry to golden brown in boiling fat.

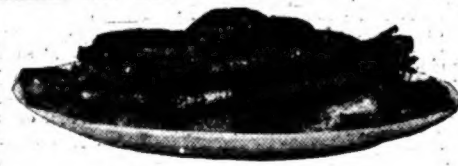
POTATO CHOWDER.—Peel and cut in dice five good-sized potatoes. Throw into cold water. Cut one quarter pound of ham in shreds and chop a medium-sized onion coarsely. Fry ham and onion together until nicely browned. Drain water from the potatoes and put in a layer of potato dice in the bottom of a steaming kettle, then a sprinkle of the ham, and onion. Then more potato dice, and so on until all is used. Cover with cold water and let come slowly to boiling point. Cook until the potatoes are done enough not to lose their shape. Add a pint of good, rich milk and season to taste with salt and pepper. Rub to a smooth paste two level tablespoons of butter and two of flour. When the chowder boils up, stir in the thickening and continue to stir gently until it boils again. Serve at once.

MRS. WALTER ALVIERSON, Detroit, Mich.

POTATO CAKES.—Lettover mashed potato may be utilized for delicious potato cakes. To a cup and a half of potato add one egg and beat the two until light, seasoning to taste. Form into cakes, roll in cracker crumbs and fry in pork fat.

STUFFED POTATOES.—Bake large evenly sized potatoes. Cut off tops and scoop out centers. To six or seven large potatoes add one pint finely chopped cooked meat one tablespoon butter, one cup bread crumbs and seasoning to taste. Refill potatoes and serve while hot.

SAUSAGES WITH APPLE RINGS.—Let sausages simmer in boiling water in a frying pan for fifteen minutes, then drain and fry until brown. Make a



SAUSAGES WITH APPLE RINGS.

syrup of one cup each of sugar and water; core, pare and slice in rings four or five apples, cook rings a few at a time in the syrup until tender, turning often to obtain shape. Serve them with sausages and they make a delicious dish.

MARY H. NORTHEAD, Salem, Mass.

DELICIOUS STEW.—One pound stew beef, two pounds of pork chops, two onions. Put in a layer of pork, then a layer of beef and a little onion, season each layer with salt and pepper. Continue until all the meat is used, cover as closely as possible and set in a large boiler of boiling water. Put a cover on the larger boiler, too. Cook three and one half hours.

It makes it hard for me. She delights in getting out in the yard and a wheel chair would enable me to take her out so many times when otherwise she would have to stay in her room alone. I shall do all I can to get subscriptions but we live in a thinly settled neighborhood, five miles from the nearest town so it is impossible for me to get the entire two hundred as I cannot leave her to go any distance to solicit subscriptions. I have cared for her all her life without the aid of a wheel chair or any help save my own arms. We live back the mountains and see very few people and I cannot get away to solicit subscriptions or to do any work to get money to buy her a chair. I will feel so thankful to the sisters for any help they will give my poor little boy. He is fourteen years old.

Your sincere friend, Mrs. W. M. CHEWNING.

Thanking all in advance for any help they may render.

MRS. SADIE V. BARNES.

BOONE MILL, R. R. 3, Box 104, Va.

DEAR PEOPLE:

I would be so thankful if the COMFORT sisters would help me get a wheel chair for my little son, Roland, who has not walked a step for a year and a half and the doctors say he will never walk again. We live back the mountains and see very few people and I cannot get away to solicit subscriptions or to do any work to get money to buy him a chair. I will feel so thankful to the sisters for any help they will give my poor little boy. He is fourteen years old.

Your sincere friend, Mrs. W. M. CHEWNING.

It is very seldom that we print letters soliciting subscriptions for the wheel-chair applicants.

WALDORF SALAD.—Peel and cut one apple into dice and sprinkle with two tablespoons of orange juice. Add one cup of finely cut celery, one cup of broken walnut meats, one half teaspoon of salt. Mix thoroughly, moisten with one cup of mayonnaise, place in nests of lettuce leaves and garnish with candied cherries.

OYSTER OMELET.—Beat six eggs separately very light; season with pepper and salt; add two tablespoons of cream, and pour into a frying-pan, with a good tablespoon of butter; drop in the omelet eight or ten large oysters, chopped fine, and fry; fold over, and send to table immediately.

PLUM PUDDING.—One cup seeded raisins, one cup currants, one half pound citron, one cup sugar, one cup bread crumbs, one half cup chopped nuts, grated peel one lemon, salt, one half teaspoon allspice, one half teaspoon cloves, one quarter teaspoon nutmeg, three quarters teaspoon cinnamon, one wine glass brandy; mix ingredients, put over top one half pound finely chopped suet; let stand over night; stir, add yolks of four eggs, two cups flour, two teaspoons baking powder, then the beaten whites put in bag wrung out in cold water with plate underneath and steam four hours.

SAUCE.—Two cups brown sugar, one half cup butter; cream and melt in double boiler; stir in one beaten egg; remove from fire and add one cup cream and flavoring.

SQUASH OR PUMPKIN PIE.—One cup squash or pumpkin, sifted, two eggs, one pint milk, stir squash and milk until smooth; set on back of stove to keep warm, add eggs, pinch salt, one half teaspoon cinnamon or nutmeg, one small cup sugar; bake with under crust.

MY MOTHER'S MINCE MEAT.—Two pounds chopped beef, four pounds sour apples, three quarters pound chopped suet, one pound stoned raisins, one quarter pound chopped citron, two and one half pounds sugar, one and one half teaspoons cloves, five teaspoons cinnamon, two teaspoons mace, one half teaspoon black pepper, three tablespoons salt, one pint of cider and vinegar mixed, one pint molasses and the juice of two lemons.

MRS. ANDREW DABOVICH, Virginia, Nevada.

MOLASSES CORN BALLS.—To three quarts of carefully selected kernels, allow one tablespoon of butter, one cup of molasses and one half cup of sugar, with a little salt. Boil until brittle when tried in cold water. Pour this mixture gradually over the corn, taking care that it is evenly distributed. Shape into balls with as little handling as possible.

BREAD PUDDING.—One cup of bread crumbs soaked in one pint of milk. Add two beaten eggs, quarter of a cup of sugar, one eighth teaspoon of soda, one quarter teaspoon of salt, one tablespoon of melted butter and a pinch each of nutmeg and cinnamon. Bake about three quarters of an hour in a moderate oven. Beat the whites of two eggs to a stiff froth and gradually beat in two tablespoons of sugar and drop into small mounds on pudding. Bake to a golden brown.

MRS. ANDREW DABOVICH, Virginia, Nevada.

CRACKER JACK.—Four quarts popped corn, two cups shelled peanuts, one cup molasses, one cup sugar, and butter size of an egg. Boil molasses, sugar and butter until it will spin a thread, then pour over corn and peanuts, mix well and form into any desired shape.

MRS. DAVID LOWE.

FAVORITE CAKE.—Stir together till creamy one half cup butter or lard and one cup of sugar; add two well-beaten eggs. Then alternately one cup of milk and two cups of flour, well sifted with two teaspoons baking powder. Add a pinch of salt and one teaspoon of vanilla. This is one of the best recipes I ever tried.

MOCK CREAM FILLING.—One large sour apple, grated, white of one egg, one cup of brown or confectioner's sugar and flavor to taste. Beat steadily for twenty minutes. Can scarcely be told from cream filling.

MRS. C. R. MILLER, Clackamas, R. R. 1, Oregon.

RICE CAKES.—Add enough milk to two cups of cold boiled rice to make quite thin and cook in double boiler till rice is soft, add salt, one beaten egg and enough flour to handle. Spread half an inch thick on pan, mark into squares and bake in hot oven till brown. Butter while hot.

DOUGHNUTS.—One egg, beat thoroughly and add one and one half cup of milk and cream half and half, one and one half cups sugar, one and one half teaspoon baking powder, a little nutmeg and flour enough to make a soft paste. Roll very thin, cut out and fry in hot lard. Dip in sugar.

WHITE DIVINITY CAKE.—Two cups sugar, five tablespoons melted butter, one cup sweet milk, three cups flour, two teaspoons of baking-powder, whites of six eggs and one teaspoon vanilla. Cream butter and sugar, add milk; stir well while adding the flour, into which the baking-powder has been stirred; add flavoring and lastly the eggs beaten very stiff. Bake in layers.

CHOCOLATE CREAM CAKE.—One and three quarters cups of sugar, three cooking spoons of butter, three eggs, one cup of milk, two and one half cups flour, two teaspoons baking-powder and last of all add one quarter pound melted chocolate.

CARAMEL FROSTING.—One cup brown sugar, one half cup thin cream, and one teaspoon butter. Boil until a soft ball can be formed in water. Beat until creamy, add vanilla and spread on cake.

MRS. ANNA BLECKMAN, Leslie, Mo.

CHOCOLATE FILLING.—Four tablespoons chocolate, melt and let cool; add three tablespoons milk three quarters cup of sugar two teaspoons butter and one egg. Mix well and cook until it thickens. Let cool, flavor and spread on cake.

MRS. ANNA BLECKMAN, Leslie, Mo.

but these two cases are so out of the ordinary that we will make an exception to our general rule. As will be seen, the parents live in thinly settled districts and the mothers are unable to leave home to earn money to buy a wheel chair for their crippled children. Here is a chance to win their heartfelt gratitude as well as add a few stars to your crown, by sending in as many subscriptions as you possibly can for either, or both, of the children. Send the subscriptions direct to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, and mention in your letter the person for whose benefit they are intended. Read the wheel-chair offer in another part of the paper.—Ed.

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MRS. ANNA BLECKMAN, Leslie, Mo.

Mo. I think COMFORT is the finest paper ever printed and I don't see how I could go along without it. I am a young wife and mother, just seventeen years young, so you see I get many helpful hints concerning my housekeeping and the care of my little son. I have been married two years to one of the best men that ever lived. I was married at the age of fifteen. Some of you may say it was too young, yes, I know it was, but my mother being dead and my father a poor man, he willingly gave his consent to our marriage as he had known the young man over a year before our marriage and knew him to be hardworking and honest. I have never known what it was to be unhappy since we were married. He is eleven years older than I am. We

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MRS. ANNA BLECKMAN, Leslie, Mo.

enjoy teaching our baby to talk. He is just beginning to lisped a few words. My husband and I are both high tempered. Before we were married we came to an understanding with each other that when one was angry the other was to keep still, and we find that it works splendidly and saves us both harsh words and bitter feelings. How many sisters ever try that way? If not, try it once and see how well it works and you will be so delighted with the result that you will try it always. I do not believe in divorce. I believe that when a couple are thinking of marriage they should understand each other and know their bad points as well as the good. So many people rush into matrimony without giving it as much thought as they should. I was taught to regard marriage as God's work and therefore to keep it holy. How many agree with me?

By wishes to COMFORT sisters, Mrs. Wilkinson and Uncle Charlie.

Bell. In conjunction with your letter I would like to publish one I received from a dear old man, eighty-one years old, on the training of children, but since I cannot do that I'll do the next best thing and give you his ideas in a condensed form. He protested against the injustice, even cruelty, of allowing babies to learn too many things they must unlearn a little later in life. Baby talk and baby actions are very cunning and we are prone to let them go on in their cute ways till a time comes when the cuteness is worn off and the poor child must be broken of habits which never should have been formed. For instance, the habit of encouraging baby to strike its mother or other people, is one that if persisted in will result in later punishment for the child, even though it is not to blame and if any hands are to be slapped they should be those of the person who taught or permitted the child to form such a habit. Then this "baby-talk" idea deserves a moment's notice and while it may require will power to talk to the "little sweet s'ings" in a sane, rational manner and tone, it is worth while to make the effort. Ask your school teacher what her opinion is. The child who starts in schoolwork hampered by imperfect pronunciation does not make his rapid progress in his studies as does the child whose mother is made of sterner stuff and able to resist so much of nonsense in talking to her children.—Ed.

DEAR COMFORT SISTERS:

We are not living in Corunna, Mich., now as my husband received a better position in Detroit. I, like Mrs. E. D. Hanna, prefer city life. Living is high in Detroit, but there are many advantages as well as disadvantages. Many times one may have a small garden in the back yard which helps wonderfully when one has a thin pocketbook and besides the vegetables are so much nicer than those at the stores. We have always had a garden till this year.

Another advantage is the free libraries. I am a lover of books and would not have I do not get the good reading I enjoy were it not for the libraries. This summer I have been reading H. Rider Haggard's books and certainly believe there is not another romance like him. What better reading can one ask for than "Marle," "Allan Quatermain," "King Solomon's Mines" or "The Heart of the World"? I enjoy Sir Walter Scott's and Washington Irving's writings as well as many others that, as my letter will be lengthy, I will not mention. Like Ethel Shafer, I have a little book in which I jot down the names of books I read and their authors.

How I wish I might become acquainted with Mrs. A. W. King; no one knows, perhaps I may some day. Strange things occur sometimes. But I do believe I will write again telling more about the Physical Culture she mentioned.

I certainly agree with her on the subject of children's diet. So many, many mothers make a serious mistake by giving their babies solid food before the digestive fluids in the stomach are able to digest it properly. It is peculiar that the babies at teething time, indigestion and sometimes constipation. Poor babies, how they suffer through the ignorance or carelessness of their respective mothers. No baby should be given solid food till nature tells us the stomach is ready for it which she does by giving the baby from six to eight teeth. Even then if the baby is delicate, or is cutting teeth, or the weather is hot, it is advisable to wait until the baby is a little older. Many baby books say to begin feeding solid food when the baby is a year old—that is because a normal baby has from six to eight teeth at that age. The diet after the first year should be as simple as possible although of course there should be some variety in the food. I believe if a good foundation is laid by the use of proper food during the first few years of life, the child will be well prepared in health and digestion for later life. Each child is a law unto himself and anything which is found to disagree should be discontinued and not given again for some time.

Since coming to this crowded city we have not always been able to have a house by ourselves. In the first house was a family with two small children, the younger a baby of eight months. One day when I went into their rooms I saw the baby sitting on the floor eating an apple. The mother proudly told me he ate everything and I guess he did everything from turnips to sourcrot. He was having a hard time cutting teeth and as yet had cut none. It made my heart ache to hear the poor baby cry and cry with pain when I knew his mother's carelessness was largely to blame. The next family had had a little girl, but had lost it at thirteen months of age. She told me she had fed her baby everything from the time she was six months old, but admitted the child had been troubled with constipation and had been sick a good share of the time she had been cutting teeth. And I have known of several other cases. Why will mothers who love their children cause so much useless pain?

My baby Ethel is thirteen months old and has never known sick days. I hardly think that she has a tooth except that she is a little cross the day the tooth comes through. Her eleventh tooth has just appeared. On account of the hot summer I have but just weaned her. I began gradually feeding her solid food when she was eleven months old. Now she has four meals a day and eats bread and milk, soft boiled or poached eggs, bread and butter, zwieback, graham and wheat crackers, all cooked breakfast foods, beef broths, rice, tapioca, custard and corn-starch puddings, stewed prunes and jello. Her brother Glenn, three years old, is feeding her some bread and milk as I write this. I believe in teaching children to help.

Here is a subject I would like to refer to you sisters. Why is it so many mothers cannot get their babies to eat? Mothers-in-law? Whose fault is it? Even if there is no active trouble there is often a feeling of animosity between them.

I will close hoping that if this letter is published in time some of the sisters will send me a letter on my twenty-fourth birthday which is January twenty-seventh. And if there are not too many, I will try and answer all. Your COMFORT sister,

MRS. WALTER ALVIERSON.

Mrs. Alverson. Thanks for bringing up the subject of "in-laws." I've wondered many times where the fault lay and now, maybe, we'll get some true-to-life experiences that will help both sides.—Ed.

JUNIPER, COLO.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON AND COMFORT SISTERS:

I have been a subscriber to COMFORT for years but have never written to the Sisters' Corner, but since reading the letters directed against Mrs. McKnight, and being in sympathy with her views on Votman suffrage, I must say a few words in her defense. I think Mrs. McKnight's letter to Mrs. Dilly was instigated not through temper or spite as some infer but rather from knowing something of the injustice and suffering in this country and desiring to accomplish with the vote what woman's influence (referred to by Mrs. Dilly) has failed to do.

I wonder if Mrs. Dilly occurred to Jennie Brooks and others who fear contamination from voting with the women of the red light districts, that with the vote they have the power to eliminate these wholesale markets of the virtue of girls and boys. Do you ever consider the cause as well as the effect? The inmates of the brothels (poor specimens of humanity down to the lowest depths of degradation) were once virtuous girls, the most of them forced there by white slavers. And the men who support these vile institutions of disease and crime (physically and morally unfit to marry and become fathers) were once virtuous boys. No, I say as long as the Government allows the saloons and brothels to degrade and destroy human beings for not too many, I will support the woman's vote.

You ask why women have not made greater progress? Because women and women's interests have been confined within four walls for so long a great many of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

The Masked Bridal

By Mrs. Georgie Sheldon



*Oh how lovely
exclaimed the
young girl*



*Pray give them back
to me at once*



*She could not hear a word
but her jealous heart imputed
the very worst to him.*

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Edith Allendale, the only support of an invalid mother pawns a valuable watch. To redeem it she offers a five-dollar gold piece, paid to her by Royal Bryant, to the broker, who, dropping it into the drawer declares it a counterfeit and returns it. Going home, her mother suggests it may be genuine and again Edith goes out to buy food and coal. While eating supper an officer enters, followed by the grocer who insists upon Edith's arrest for passing counterfeit money. Mrs. Allendale unmoved, faints away, and Edith protesting her innocence, is hurried to the station house, leaving her mother in the care of Kate O'Brien. Edith writes to Royal Bryant explaining the situation.

He redeems the watch, secures Edith's release and sends her home, where she finds her mother dying. After her death in reading letters, Edith learns she is an adopted daughter, the child of a dear friend, who believes she is legally a wife, until the father of her child admits his perjury and deserts her. Edith writes Mr. Bryant, giving no address, and goes to Boston, securing a position as companion with Mrs. Gerald Goddard. Edith discovers there is a skeleton in the family, when Mrs. Goddard accuses her of attempting to steal her husband's affections. Emil Corelli, Mrs. Goddard's brother is persistent in his attentions to Edith; she tries to avoid him and decides to leave. Mrs. Goddard begs her to stay. Edith, going to walk renders assistance to Mrs. Stewart, who is attracted to her and shows agitation when she learns she is a companion to Mrs. Goddard, and if she needs a friend to come to her, Edith is overtaken by Emil Corelli. Nearing Mrs. Goddard's house, a woman, unknown to Edith addresses Emil in a foreign tongue. Realizing that Edith thinks there is something mysterious in his relation to this woman he endeavors to set it right, renews his protestations of love, offers marriage and is staggered by her refusal. Mrs. Goddard unfolds a scheme which cannot fail to make Edith Allen his wife, but Emil must go away. Mrs. Goddard plans with Edith for a "mid-winter frolic."

CHAPTER IX.

THE HOUSEKEEPER AT WYOMING.

THE invitations for the merry-making were at length printed and forwarded to the favored guests, but the family renders assistance not to go to Wyoming for a week or so, and meantime Mrs. Goddard devoutly hoped that the weather would change and send them a fine snow-storm, so that there would be good sleighing during their sojourn in the country.

She had her wish—everything seemed to favor the schemes of this crafty woman, for, three days later, there came a severe storm, which lasted as many more, and when at length the sun shone again there lay on the ground more than a foot of snow on a level, thus giving promise of rare enjoyment upon runners and behind spirited horses and musical bells.

At last the day of their departure arrived, and about ten o'clock, Mrs. Goddard and Edith, well wrapped in furs and robes, were driven over the well-trodden roads, in a handsome sleigh, and behind, a pair of fine horses, toward Middlesex Falls.

It was only about an hour's drive, and upon their arrival they found the Goddards' beautiful country residence in fine order, with blazing fires in several of the rooms.

The housekeeper, Mrs. Weld, had attended to all the details of preparation, and was complimented by both Mr. and Mrs. Goddard. In appearance the housekeeper was very peculiar, very tall and very stout, and in no way graceful in form or feature. Mrs. Goddard voted her as "a perfect fright," with her eyes concealed behind large, dark blue glasses. She had been employed through the agent of an intelligence office, and had come highly recommended. A close observer would have noted many oddities about her; and Edith, coming suddenly upon her in her own apartment, had reason to suspect that the housekeeper was not what she seemed—in fact, that she was disguised.

Nonetheless Mrs. Weld went about her duties, her footfalls dropping as quietly as the snow. On one occasion, arriving unexpectedly within hearing of her master and mistress, she heard him entreating her to give him possession of a certain document. This Mrs. Goddard refused until he had performed some act which, as it was apparent from the conversation, she had long been urging upon him as a duty.

Fearing discovery, Mrs. Weld did not wait to hear more, but silently walked away.

A few busy days succeeded, and then the guests began to arrive at Wyoming. The housekeeper seemed to take a great fancy to Edith, and the latter cheerfully assisted her in many ways.

A theatrical performance, planned by Mrs. Goddard, was one of the amusements arranged for

the entertainment of the guests. On the afternoon of the day set for the presentation of the little dramatic episode, a great packing case arrived from the city and was taken directly to madam's room.

A few minutes later, Edith was requested to go to her, and, upon presenting herself at the door of her boudoir, was drawn mysteriously inside, and the door locked.

"Come," said madam, with a curious smile, as she led the way into the chamber beyond, "I want you to assist me in unpacking something."

"Certainly, I shall be very glad to help you," the young girl replied, with cheerful acquiescence.

"It is one of the costumes that is to be worn this evening, and must be handled very carefully."

As Mrs. Goddard spoke, she cut the cords binding the great box, and, lifting the cover, revealed some articles enveloped in quantities of white tissue paper.

"Take it out!" commanded madam, indicating the upper package.

Edith obeyed, and, upon removing the spotless wrappings, a beautiful skirt of white satin, richly trimmed with lace of an exquisite pattern, was revealed.

"Oh, how lovely!" exclaimed the young girl. Next came the waist, or corset, which was also a marvel of artistic taste and beauty.

This was laid against the skirt when the costume, thus complete, was a perfect delight to the eye.

"It looks like a bride's dress," Edith observed.

"You are right! It is for the bride who figures in our play tonight," said madam. "This must be the veil, I think," she concluded, lifting a large box from the case, and passing it to her companion.

Edith removed the cover, and uttered an involuntary cry of delight, for before her there lay a great mass of finest tulle, made up into a bridal veil, and surmounted by a coronet of white waxen orange-blossoms.

An examination of two other boxes disclosed a pair of white satin boots, embroidered with pearls, and a pair of long white kid gloves.

"Everything is exquisite, and so complete," murmured Edith, as she laid them all out beside the dress.

"Yes, of course, the bride will be the most conspicuous figure—the cynosure of all eyes, in fact—so she could need to be as complete and perfect as possible," Mrs. Goddard explained, but watching the girl, warily, out of the corners of her eyes.

"Who is going to wear it?" Edith inquired.

Madam's eyes gleamed strangely at the question.

"Miss Kerby takes the part of the heroine of the play," she answered, "whom, by the way, I called Edith, because I like the name so much. I did not think you would mind."

"Oh, no," said the girl, absently. Then, with a little start, she exclaimed, as she lifted something from the box from which the gloves had been taken: "But what is this?"

It was a small half-circle of fine white gauze, edged with a fringe of frosted silver, while a tiny chain of the same material was attached to each end.

"Oh! that is the mask," said Mrs. Goddard.

"The mask?" repeated Edith, surprised.

"Yes; I don't wonder you look astonished, to find such a thing among the outfit of a bride," said madam, with a peculiar little laugh; "but although it is a profound secret to everybody outside the actors, I will explain it to you, as the time is so near. You understand this is a play that I have myself written."

"Yes."

"Well, I have entitled it 'The Masked Bridal,' and it is a very cunningly devised plot, on the part of a pair of lovers whose obdurate parents refuse to allow them to marry," madam explained. "Edith Lancaster is an American girl, and Henri Bernard is a Frenchman. They have a couple of friends whose wedding is set for a certain date, and who plan to help them outwit the parents of Edith and Henri. The scene is, of course, laid in Paris, where everybody knows a marriage must be contracted in church. The friends of the two unfortunate lovers send out their cards, announcing their approaching nuptials, and also the fact that they will both be masked during the ceremony."

"How strange!" Edith murmured.

"Yes, it is both a novel and an extravagant idea," Mrs. Goddard assented; "but, of course, nobody minds that in a play—the more extravagant and unreal, the better it suits the public nowadays. Well, the parents and friends of the couple naturally object to this arrangement, but they finally carry their point. Everything is arranged, and the wedding-day arrives. Only the parents and a few friends are supposed to be present, and, at the appointed hour, the bridal party—consisting of the ushers and four bridesmaids, a maid-of-honor, and the bride, leaning upon her father's arm, proceed slowly to the altar, where they are met by the groom, best man, and clergyman. Then comes the ceremony, which seems just as real as if it were a bona-fide marriage, you know; and when the young couple turn to leave the church, as husband and wife, they remove their masks, and behold! the truth is

revealed. There is, of course, great astonishment, and some dismay manifested on the part of the obdurate parents, who are among the invited guests; but the deed is done—it would not do to make a scene or any disturbance in church, and so they are forced to make the best of the affair, and accept the situation."

"But what becomes of the couple who planned all this for their friends?" Edith inquired.

"Oh, they were privately married half an hour earlier, and come in at a rear door just in season to follow the bridal party down the aisle, and join in the wedding-feast at home."

"It is a very strange plot—a very peculiar conception," murmured Edith, musingly.

"Yes, it is very French, and extremely unique, and will be carried out splendidly, if nothing unforeseen occurs to mar the acting, for the amateurs I have chosen are all very good. But now I must run down to see that everything is all right for the evening, before I dress. By the way," she added, as if the thought had just occurred to her, "I would like you to put on something pretty, and come to help me in the dressing-room during the play. Have you a white dress here?"

"Yes; it is not a very modern one, but it was nice in its day," Edith replied.

"Very well; I shall not mind the cut of it, if it is only white," said madam. "Now I must run. You can ring for some one to take away this rubbish," she concluded, glancing at the boxes and papers that were strewn about the room; then she went quickly out.

Edith obeyed her, and remained until the room was once more in order, after which she went up to her own chamber, where she laid her clothing out upon the bed, in readiness for the evening, and then went down to her dinner, which she always took with the housekeeper before the family meal was served.

Edith found Mrs. Weld looking unusually nice—although she was always a model of neatness in her attire—in a handsome black silk, with folds of soft, creamy lace across her ample breast, while upon her head she wore a fashionable lace cap, adorned with dainty bows of white ribbon.

"Oh! how very nice you are looking," Edith exclaimed, as she entered the room. "What a lovely piece of silk your dress is made of, and your cap is very pretty."

"Thank you, child," the woman responded. "Of course, I had to make a special effort for such an occasion as this."

"If you would only take off your glasses, Mrs. Weld," said the young girl. "Couldn't you, just for this evening?"

"No, indeed, Miss Edith," hastily returned the housekeeper. "With all the extra lights, I should be blinded."

"But you have such lovely eyes—"

"How do you know?" demanded Mrs. Weld.

"Partly by guess—partly by observation," said Edith, laughing. "Let me prove it," she continued, playfully, as she deftly captured the obnoxious spectacles, and then looked mischievously straight into the beautiful but startled orbs thus disclosed.

"Child! child! what are you doing?" exclaimed the woman, as she tried to get possession of her property again. "Pray, give them back to me at once."

But Edith playfully evaded her, and clasped them in her hands behind her.

"I knew it! I knew it!" she cried, in a voice of merry triumph. "They are remarkably beautiful, and no one would ever believe there was anything the matter with them. Oh! I love such eyes as yours, Mrs. Weld—they are such a delicious color—so clear, so soft, and expressive."

And Edith, inspired by a sudden impulse, leaned forward and kissed the woman on the forehead, just between the eyes which she had been so admiring.

Mrs. Weld seemed to be strangely agitated by this affectionate little act.

Tears sprang into her eyes, and her lips quivered with emotion for a moment.

Then she put out her arms and clasped the beautiful girl in a fond embrace, and softly returned her caress.

"You are a lovable little darling—every inch of you," she said, with sudden fervor. "What a mutual admiration society we have constituted ourselves. Mrs. Weld! But I am sure, I am very happy to know that there is some one in the world who feels so tenderly toward me."

"No one who knew you could help it, my dear," gently returned the woman, "and I shall always remember you very tenderly, for you have been so kind and helpful to me in many ways since we have been here. I suppose the affairs tonight will wind up the frolic here," she went on, thoughtfully. "You will go your way, I shall go mine, and we may never meet again; but, I shall never forget you Miss Allen."

"Why, Mrs. Weld! how strangely you appear tonight!" Edith involuntarily interposed. "You do not seem like yourself."

"I know it, child; but the Goddards expect to return to town tomorrow, and I may not have an opportunity to see you again alone," returned the housekeeper, with a strange smile. "I do not want you to forget me, either," she went on, drawing a little box from her pocket. "So I am going to give you a souvenir to take away with you, if you will do me the favor to accept it."

She slipped the tiny box into Edith's hand as she concluded.

More and more surprised, the fair girl opened it, and uttered a low cry of admiration as she beheld its contents. Within, on a bed of spotless cotton, there lay a gold chain of very delicate workmanship, and suspended from it, by the stem, as fresh and green, apparently, as if it had that moment been plucked from its native soil, was a shamrock, in the heart of which there gleamed a small diamond of purest water.

"Why, Mrs. Weld, how beautiful!" exclaimed Edith, "but—Isn't the gift a little extravagant for me?"

"You are worthy of a stone ten times the size of that," said her companion, smiling; "but, if you mean to imply that I have impoverished myself to purchase it for you, do not fear; for it was a little ornament that I used to wear when I was a girl, so it costs me nothing but the pleasure of giving it to you."

"Thank you, a thousand times!" returned Edith, "and I shall prize it all the more for that very reason. Now, pray pardon me," she added, flushing, as she returned the glasses she had so playfully captured, "I am afraid I was a little rude to remove them without your permission."

"Never mind, dear; you have done no harm," said the housekeeper, as she restored them to their place. "Come, now, we must have our dinner, or I shall be late, and there must be no mistakes tonight, of all times."

When the meal was finished, Mrs. Weld hastened away to attend to her numerous duties, while Edith went slowly up-stairs to dress herself for the evening.

CHAPTER X.

"THE GIRL IS DOOMED!—SHE HAS SEALED HER OWN FATE!"

After her toilet was completed, Edith descended to the second floor.

In the ladies' dressing-rooms, she found everything in the nicest possible order, and then passed on to those allotted to the gentlemen, in one of which she found that the maids had neglected to provide drinking water.

She was upon the point of leaving the room to have the matter attended to, when Mr. Goddard, attired in evening dress, entered.

"Where is Mollie?" he inquired, but with a visible start of surprise, as he noticed Edith's exceeding loveliness.

"I think she is in one of the other rooms," she replied. "Shall I call her for you?"

"Yes, if you please; or—" with a lingering glance of admiration—"perhaps you will help me with these gloves. I find it troublesome to button them."

"Certainly," replied the young girl, but flushing beneath his look, and, taking the silver button-hook from him, she proceeded to perform the simple service for him, but noticed, while doing so, the taint of liquor on his breath.

"Thank you," he said, appreciatively, when the last button was fastened. Then bending lower to look into her eyes, he added, softly: "How lovely you are tonight, Miss Edith!"

She drew herself away from him, with an air of offended dignity, and would have passed from the room had he not placed himself directly in her way, thus cutting off her escape.

"Nay, nay, pretty one; do not be so shy of me," he went on, insinuatingly. "Why have you avoided me of late? We have not had one of our cozy social chats for a long time. Did madam's unreasonable fit of jealousy that day in the library frighten you? Pray, do not mind her—she has always been like that ever since—well, for many years."

"Mr. Goddard! I beg you will cease. I cannot listen to you!" cried Edith. "Let me pass, if you please. I have an order to give one of the housemaids."

"Tut! tut! little one; the order can wait, and it is not kind of you to fly at me like that. I have been drawn toward you ever since you came into the family, and every day only serves to strengthen the spell that you have been weaving about me. Come now, tell me that you will try to return my fondness for you—"

"Mr. Goddard! what is the meaning of this strange language? You have no right to address me thus; it is an insult to me—a wicked wrong against your wife—"

"My wife!" the man burst forth, mockingly, and with a strangely bitter laugh.

"I do not love her," he said, hoarsely; "she has killed all my affection for her by her infernally variable moods, her jealousy, her vanity, and her inordinate passion for worldly pleasure, to the exclusion of all home responsibilities. More-over—"

"I must not listen to you! Oh! let me go!"

Before Edith was aware of his intention, he bent his lips close to her face, and whispered something, in swift sentences, that made her shrink from him with a sudden cry of mingled pain and dismay, and cover her ears with her pretty hands.

"I do not believe it!" she panted; "Oh! I cannot believe it. I am sure you do not know what you are saying, Mr. Goddard!"

Her words appeared to arouse him to a sense of the fact that he was compromising himself most miserably in her estimation.

"No, I don't suppose you can," he muttered, a half-dazed expression on his face; "and I've no business to be telling you any such things. But, all the same, I am very fond of you, pretty one."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)

BREAD—SOME GOOD RECIPES FOR SEVERAL KINDS

By Ella Gordon

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"M" EASURED by actual nutritive power, there is no other complete ration which, in economy, can compare with bread," says Dr. Wiley, the celebrated food expert. But bread is the "staff of life" only when made digestible and palatable, for no article of diet is so necessary or so influences the health of a family. Bread was one of the earliest foods known to mankind and was made by pounding dry roots, wetting to form a dough and baked in hot ashes.

Now in the day of scientifically prepared grains and ovens that insure a dependable heat for baking, it requires but the mastery of a few elementary principles and ordinary interest and care to become a good bread-maker. Housekeepers who fail in making good bread often think it requires a certain knack which they do not possess, unaware of their own failure to use proper care and materials.

Good bread and milk supplies all the nutritive power required by the human body, and bread is usually the first solid food taken by children and an equally valuable food in old age when the appetite and digestion have become impaired. For the convalescent, nothing takes the place of crisp toast served with hot milk.

There comes the all-important sandwich for the lunch and dinner box and right here is good bread indispensable.

Simple rules to keep in mind: Use the same cup for measuring the dry and liquid ingredients. Sift flour, meal or graham and fill measure with spoon, making cup even full.

Have liquids lukewarm and unless flour is kept in warm place bring that to same temperature so it will not check the process of fermentation.

To one quart of liquid use three quarts of flour for yeast bread. Bread raised over night requires one half yeast cake to one quart of liquid.

Quickly raised bread requires two yeast cakes to one quart of liquid.

Quickly made bread is the best flavored and is accomplished by setting it to rise in the morning, all the ingredients lukewarm and kept so by covering dough and keeping it out of drafts in a moderately warm place. Do not try to hurry the rising as it will make the bread sour and heavy.

Milk makes richer bread than water and will keep moist longer.

Prevent a crust from forming over the dough by keeping it tightly covered while rising. If a dry crust is worked into dough there will be streaks through the bread.

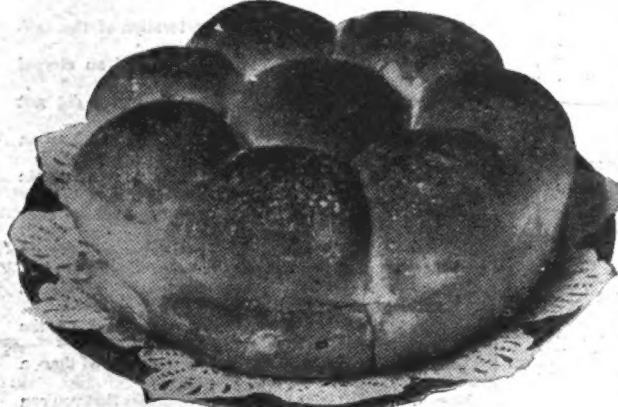
Dough should rise till double in bulk and then cut down with a wide bladed knife.

The best shortening is butter or lard. Sweeten with granulated sugar. To one quart of liquid use one even tablespoonful of salt.

To knead, dust the board with flour, turn out the well mixed dough and then flour the hands. Draw the dough farthest from you to the center and press with the palms of the hands. Repeat till dough is smooth and elastic with an occasional cutting through and through of the dough. Keep the hands well floured and avoid using more flour than possible on the board.

Fill tins half full, and when raised even full they should be put in the oven to bake. Have the oven sufficiently hot to brown a little flour in one minute for rolls and in five minutes for loaves. Bake loaves one hour. During the first twenty minutes the heat should slightly increase and the loaf rise and begin to brown. Hold the heat steady the next twenty minutes and decrease the last twenty minutes.

On taking bread from oven remove at once from pans and place on a wire sieve on something that will allow the air to circulate freely



RAISED BISCUITS.

around it. When about half cool, cover closely with a bread cloth that the crust will be tender.

Recipes

RAW POTATO YEAST.—Much of the success of this recipe depends on having everything ready to do with that the work may be quickly done. Have a kettle of water boiling hard before commencing to make yeast. Use silver spoon. Pare four medium-sized potatoes and cover with cold water. Next mix together one third cup of flour, one third cup of sugar and one tablespoonful of salt in a large mixing bowl. Grate in the potatoes, keeping the potato covered with the flour to prevent turning dark. Add one pint of boiling water, at the same time rinsing the potato from grater by pouring over it. Mix all together very thoroughly and then add in a small stream enough more boiling water to make it the consistency of thin starch. About one quart is usually necessary, depending on size of potatoes. Should the mixture fail to thicken when this amount is added pour into an agate dish and bring to a boil, stirring very frequently to prevent

sticking. Strain through a coarse strainer and stir frequently till the mixture is just lukewarm and then add one large cup of yeast three quarters of a compressed yeast cake dissolved in half a cup of lukewarm water. Place a towel over the top of bowl and set in a warm place till foamy, stirring occasionally during this process of rising. When the yeast seems well risen, pour it into glass jars, reserving enough separately for the next yeast making. Keep cool in a dark place, and it is better never to bring the yeast into the hot cookroom, but measure it from the cellar.

WHITE FLOUR BREAD.—In a large mixing bowl put one pint of milk and one pint of water that has first been scalded and cooled till lukewarm. Add two tablespoonfuls of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of warmed butter or lard and two yeast cakes dissolved in one cup of lukewarm water or two cups of yeast. Add three pints of sifted flour and stir till smooth, then add one tablespoonful of salt and three pints more of flour and stir till smooth. If liquid yeast is used a little more flour will be necessary. Turn out on floured bread-board. Knead, rise in a greased bowl, put into tins, bake and cool according to rules in above article. This is a quick method of making bread which brings better results in



PARKER HOUSE ROLLS.

winter when fermentation is slower. One half the yeast will raise the bread but it will have to set over night. Bread started in the morning and baked in later afternoon is always the best.

RAISED BISCUITS.—Reserve a portion of the white flour bread dough, mold into balls the size of a large English walnut, put well apart in tins, raise till double in size, then brush with white of egg mixed with a little water and bake fifteen minutes in a hot oven, decreasing the heat the last five minutes.

PARKER HOUSE ROLLS.—Scald and cool two cups of milk and add two tablespoonfuls of sugar, four tablespoonfuls of butter or lard, one yeast cake or one cup of liquid yeast and three cups of sifted flour. Beat till very smooth. Cover and rise in a warm place which should take about one hour. Cut down and add one teaspoonful of salt and three more cups of flour or possibly a little more and knead well. Let rise again till about double in bulk then roll out thin and brush with melted butter. Cut into rounds with biscuit cutter, make a heavy crease across the center and fold once. Place well apart in a pan, let rise till light and bake in a hot oven fifteen minutes.

GRAHAM MUFFINS.—Mix together one cup of entire wheat or graham flour sifted, one cup of white flour, one half teaspoonful of salt, two tablespoonfuls of sugar and four teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat one egg, add one cupful and two tablespoonfuls of milk and two tablespoonfuls of molasses and mix together and stir into the dry ingredients. Lastly beat in three tablespoonfuls of warmed butter. Bake in hot muffin pans twenty minutes or till brown and slightly shrunken around edges.

FRIED BREAD WITH FILLING No. 1.—Beat one egg very light and then beat in one half cup of sugar. Add three quarters of a cup of milk and two cups of flour to which has been added one rounding teaspoonful of baking powder and quarter of a teaspoonful of salt. The batter should be quite stiff and a little more flour may be necessary. Have ready either dried apple sauce or mince meat and to each mixing spoonful add about three teaspoonfuls of filling by putting it into the batter, covering it with batter, and then taking up the mixing spoonful and dropping into hot, deep fat. Fry till a golden brown. Garnish with jelly.

FRIED BREAD WITH - FILLING No. 2.—Reserve portion of raised dough and roll about half an inch thick. Cut in rounds, put about three teaspoonfuls of filling onto one half, turn over the other half, pinch edges together and drop into hot, deep fat and fry brown.

The baking specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture have been conducting a series of successful experiments in using boiled potatoes with flour in making bread. It has been found to make an appetizing and as nutritious a product and that the bread keeps fresh longer than when made from all flour.

Potato Bread

Straight Dough Method

The following is one of the methods for making potato bread, worked out in the government baking laboratory, and recommended in a recent bulletin.

For four one-pound loaves, the following ingredients are required:

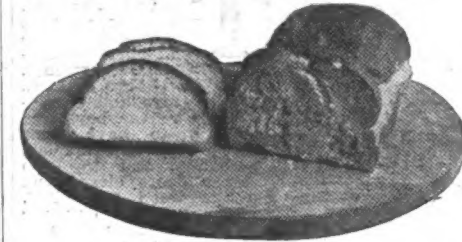
Three pounds of boiled and peeled potatoes, two and one quarter pounds of good bread flour, three level tablespoonfuls of sugar, one and one half level tablespoonful of salt, two cakes of compressed yeast, four tablespoonfuls of lukewarm water.

Wash thoroughly and boil in their skins about twelve potatoes of medium size. Cook them until

they are very tender. Drain, peel and mash them while hot, being careful to leave no lumps. Allow the mashed potato to cool to 80 degrees F. or until lukewarm. To three pounds (five solidly packed one half pint cupfuls) of the mashed potato, add the yeast, which has been rubbed smooth in a cup with three tablespoonfuls of lukewarm water. To get all the yeast, rinse the cup with the remaining tablespoonful of water and add this also to the potato. Next add the salt, the sugar and about four ounces of the flour (one scant half pint of sifted flour). Mix thoroughly with the hand, but do not add any more water at this stage.

Cover the mixing bowl to avoid the formation of a crust on top and place out of the way of drafts to rise, where the temperature cannot fall below 80 degrees F. or be much higher than 88 degrees F. Where the housewife has no thermometer she should see that the dough in all the risings is kept moderately warm, but not up to blood heat. Any water used in mixing the dough should be moderately warm, but by no means hot. This sponge if kept at the proper temperature, should, after two hours, become quite light.

To this well-risen sponge, which now will be found to be quite soft, add the remainder of the

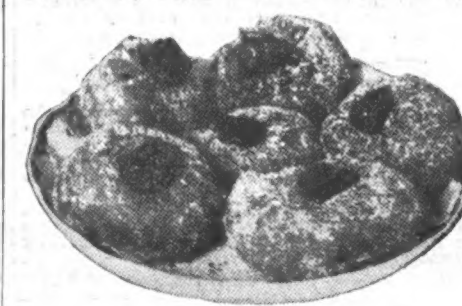


WHITE FLOUR BREAD.

flour, kneading thoroughly until a smooth and elastic dough has been formed. The dough must be very stiff, since the boiled potato contains a large amount of water which causes the dough to soften as it rises. Do not add water to the dough unless it is absolutely necessary to work in the flour. Set the dough back to rise again, temperature at about 80 degrees F. until it has trebled in volume, which will require another hour or two. Then divide the dough into four approximately equal parts, reserving a tiny lump weighing two or three ounces for an "indicator." Shape the sample into a ball and press it into the bottom of a small tumbler with straight sides. The glass should be slightly warmed. Note the volume of the ball of dough in the tumbler and mark the glass at twice this volume.

Mold the four portions into loaves and place in greased pans which have been slightly warmed. Place the glass containing the "indicator" beside the pans and let all rise, under proper temperature, until the "indicator" shows that it has doubled in volume. Then place the loaves in the oven and bake in a good, steady heat (400 degrees to 425 degrees F.) for 45 minutes.

To TEST OVEN.—Where no oven thermometer is at hand, a convenient test will be to put a teaspoonful of flour in an earthen dish in the oven. If this flour becomes light brown evenly through-



FRIED BREAD WITH FILLING.

out in five minutes' time, the oven is right for bread baking. If the flour scorches in that time, the oven is too hot

Comfort Sisters' Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.)

them are intellectually unfit for the ballots. They either don't care or vote as they are told and naturally that impedes the progress of those who do know and care.

I am not an extremist. I believe Man was intended by nature to be the leader, Woman to be his companion (not his property), and to walk beside him in progress and not follow behind. In fact to be his mental as well as his soul mate.

I think the home is woman's highest sphere (when she has a home), but not to the exclusion of all outside interests. I think she should know something of what is going on in the outside world and help make it a better place to send her boys and girls when they are grown.

I wish you Anti's who are well housed, well fed and well clothed, who have children and noble husbands, would tell me what you advocate for the thousands of women who have neither homes nor husbands. Women who have to compete with men in making a living. If they can get better laws by which to live and make a living have you any right to say they shouldn't? And in so doing, are you extending to them that Christian spirit to which you profess? Yes, the Anti's have a right to their own opinion, but they have no right to try to deny to others what they themselves do not want or need.

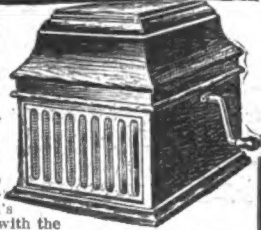
It does seem strange—that the finest and most prominent men and women of the nation are in favor of women voting while so many of the Comfort sisters are opposed to it. However, I wish more would give their reasons, as I have never yet heard a good one given.

If Mrs. Aldridge will read "Finding God in Millersville" in the September American Magazine, she may

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.)

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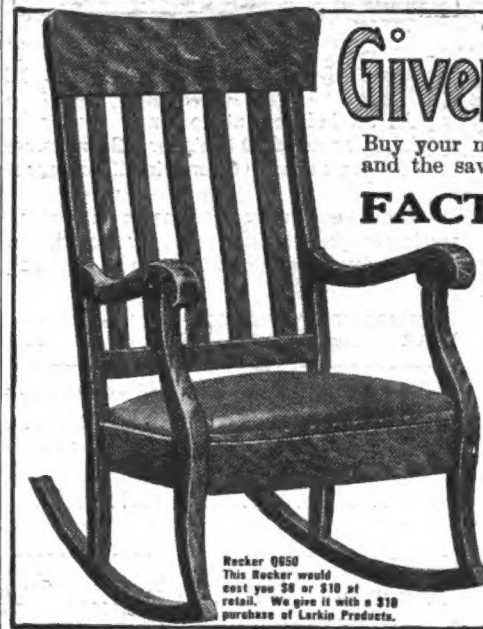
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Comfort Sisters' Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7.)

find the answer to her question in regard to whipping children to make them say their prayers.

Mrs. Pratt, I heartily appreciate your idea of a Christian.

With best wishes, yours for progress and woman suffrage.

MRS. EMMA KERSY.

Mrs. Kersey. Not only would I advise Mrs. Aldridge to read the story you mention, "Finding God in Millersville," but the rest of the sisters as well, and the men, too. It is a wonderful little story and deserves the praise it has received.—Ed.

So, DAKOTA.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON AND SISTERS: This is my second letter to COMFORT and this time I hope Mrs. Wilkinson will be more kind than she was before, for I am seeking advice.

I have been married a little over two years and am twenty years old. My husband is eleven years older than I am. He loves me I know and is always kind and good to me, but still there is something bothering me. I like to go out among people and enjoy myself or as some say, "have a good time," but whenever I suggest going to visit any of our friends my husband always seems inclined to stay at home. In the end he most always goes with me but he never acts as though he were enjoying himself and some of our friends have noticed this also. The only place he seems to be willing to go with me is to see his mother and sister. And although they are good to me and mother is a dear old lady, I feel out of place there as they are of a different nationality and generally speak in their language which I cannot understand or speak.

I don't think he can be ashamed of me, for I am fairly good looking and always try to look my best at all times.

Will some of the sisters please write to this corner and give me their ideas and advice on this matter?

I shall be glad to hear from any who care to write me sometimes I get rather lonesome. I have never lived on a farm before.

I will leave my name with our dear friend and helper, Mrs. Wilkinson, and sign myself, your COMFORT sister, "MRS. PETE."

Mrs. Pete. I'm going to let the sisters settle your difficulty for you. Doubtless some of them will tell you that if you have a husband willing to stay home you should let him. Others will say that if you knew his disinclination for society and was willing to marry him in spite of it, that you should be a good sport and make the best of it. Others will advise you to go alone, and I've even heard some advocate going with men friends of the family, with the husband's knowledge and consent of course. What do the sisters think about it?—Ed.

DEAR COMFORT SISTERS: May I be permitted to have a few minutes' chat with you while I am in the mood to talk?

This season of the year makes me realize how much is given us to be thankful for. This passing away of another year numbers our deeds with the past. Has the time been well spent? With each word and deed recorded has it been kindness, charity, and love toward our fellow men? It may have been ever so small but like the little pebble dropped in the great river, a little splash, then the ripples and the waves have carried it out on the great body of water. So with our aims and ambitions. To be noble men and women we should create the habit of letting the little pebbles of love and kindness drop where they will be passed on and on till they may become joy and gladness.

The passing of 1916 may have marked the happiest year of our lives, bringing us with full appreciation of our blessings to the beginning of this year. And how shall we spend it? Life is so uncertain that we cannot tell but let us mothers with girls just budding into womanhood, ever pray for them virtue and self respect. Let us try to be the true, tender, affectionate mothers God intended us to be. Let us consider it an honor to find ourselves trusted, chosen to be the guide and counsel of our little ones and appreciate the fact that He thought us worthy to be a mother. I have long been a reader of COMFORT and have had many hours of pleasure from its pages. Long may it live to carry messages of love, sow seeds of kindness and reap its harvest in a world to come.

With love to all and malice toward none, I am, Your loving sister, A MOTHER.

The Kingdom of Our Birthright

This is the first of a series of twelve lessons on the philosophy of life as taught by those who believe that the stars exercise a potent influence over human destiny, and ascribe to birth-stones a talismanic charm for the protection of those who wear the gems that symbolize their respective birth months.

We are not advocating these beliefs, though they have persisted from remote antiquity and have not a few devotees even in this present age of reason. Yet as myths and superstitions that have dominated through the ages they possess historic interest and educational value. Miss February will appear next month and we trust our readers will be entertained by what she has to say.—EDITOR.

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MISS JANUARY.

His little maid, Miss January, looking so pert and comfortable in her seasonable garments, brings us New Year's Greetings and a message to the boys and girls to have their ear-laps and mufflers handy, and to keep the doors closed and the wood box filled, for on that day the weather man says it will be cold with high winds.

And when a few kindred spirits have gathered about the warm blaze, how often do the mysteries of the future become the absorbing topic of conversation and are vainly sought for in the tea cup or in the shuffling of the deck!

But there were wise men, hundreds of years ago, who told that our destinies are ruled by the aspect of the planets when we were born, and claimed to read the decrees of Fate recorded in celestial horoscopes.

These Sages taught that born between the twenty-second day of January and the twenty-first day of February, men are destined to succeed in their ambitions, for genius has marked them for their own. The years of youth will not pass without struggles, for money will be scarce and the burdens of others will fall on the young shoulders. But the skies will clear, and at thirty he is a resolute man, finding the early hardships but taught him to live right.

He will be a great speaker and the country will know him as a man of a highly conscientious nature and very religious.

He may not show good judgment in selecting a wife for he will be much influenced by the opposite sex.

"Woman's affection is best proved By the care she takes of your linen."

Women whose birthdays occur between the dates mentioned have faithful natures and make loving, devoted wives. They are active, of nervous temperament, and will be liable to diseases of the nervous system. They are natural business women and will succeed.

Personal appearance will greatly concern them, and places of public entertainment and instruction will attract their interest and receive their patronage.

The Magic Influence of the Birthstone —For January 'Tis the Garnet

That a magic influence has been attributed to jewels since the world began is undisputed. We trace all through the Bible references to precious stones, even as early as Gen. ii, 12.

Fact and fancy are strangely interwoven in the value set on some particular gem, which may arise purely from association or from the fact that good fortune attended the years during which some ornament was carried about the person or worn as a jewel.

However this may be, optimism promotes success, and faith and hope bring health and happiness, and sentiment is good for all mankind. The daily sight, or the knowledge that we carry a gem that is dear from association, causes a sentiment that cannot be analyzed. Call it superstition, if we will, but we would not part with it, and we know that it awakens and strengthens the better qualities within us; that it has been a secret personal comfort through life.

There is a very pretty story of the lad who wore a ring of garnets, given him by his father, saying it possessed great power to remove all obstacles that blocked his way to success.

By the time the son reached manhood, his country was defending her shores from the enemy, and his King called him to take many a perilous journey that might cost him his life.

But he wore his ring of garnets either on his finger or suspended about his neck, and his faith in his father's gift and prophecy kept his brain clear, and his hand steady through many an hour of peril, to return to his ruler and hear his words "well done."

And thus has come about many a custom wherein gems have played an endearing part because of association and tradition, and one of the most popular of the times is the Birthday Stone, symbolic of the month in which the wearer was born.

Those born in January should wear the garnet, symbolic of power, "the guardian of all right; it makes those on whom it acts, free; it is mightiest when most gentle—mere force must fall before it."

How to Make a Miss January

Some of COMFORT's young people may want to make a Miss January, so here is the way it is done.

Buy a ten-cent doll or make a head of cloth and paint face with water colors. Fasten to neck of bottle the right height and fill bottle with sand or earth to make it heavy. Make arms and fill with hayseed. Make a plaited skirt of pale green or white crepe paper. The coat is made of red crepe paper and should come half way over the skirt. Use the red for crown of hood and trim with white cotton; also make the muffler, mittens and muff (all the M's) of cotton. Speck it with bits of black ink to represent ermine.

SPRINGFIELD, 5 West Main Street, Ohio.

MRS. WILKINSON AND COMFORT SISTERS:

Please allow a silent sister, one of the so-called uncivilized race, a Japanese, a few words.

I am Irish, but born in Japan of Missionary parents, raised in Japan, and married to a Japanese in Japan, but for the last few years of U. S. S. I have three very sweet babies and you can laugh if you want to, for they are to me the sweetest babies in the world.

If this letter is printed, I may come again and tell you some interesting things of my country people, and I am sure that if you ever were in Japan you would think as all do who have been there, and that it is that it is a most wonderful country. And very civilized also, and far more modesty in that country than here, and that counts in the civilization part. I am not trying to say U. S. is not civilized, but I do say that U. S. is far behind when it comes to modest women and girls.

To Miss Jessie Rose. I am glad to hear that you wish to become a nurse and admire your "pluck" and I wish the nurse's ways, and especially their cross hospital, explain your case, you will find them glad to help you, but dearie, you will have to get all your pluck together, and keep it too. It will be hard the first two years, but after the first two years you can get a good salary, and your third year will graduate you, if you are sincere and keep a stiff lip. Always remember to observe gently even if you have a very cross patient. You can enter a hospital, not necessary to have so very much education. They take girls in a three years' term. The first year the salary is very low, and the work hard and as this is the starter's hardest year, you must keep firm to win and not get discouraged.

The second year is better, and you are more with the patients, and so learn more the second year than the first, and the salary is some better also, and the third year, if you have been a good, studious girl, will be your triumph, and then you can demand fine wages. Of course you always get your board and room from the start. So good luck dearie, and let me know once in a while how you are getting along, and watch the nurse's ways, and especially their cross hospital, and you take notice of all, in fact be especially observing, all the time and remember all you hear and see, and do it, and no one will know whether you went through high school or not, and you do not have to tell the nurses all about yourself, even though they do ask, so again good luck.

I had a birthday the 24th of November.

My little girl aged four years, can wash all the dishes, and I scold them and she wipes them and puts all away in their place as good as I can do it. She is a great help to me, and I believe it right to teach the little ones how to work, and clean, and be neat and obedient. They love their bath, and want it every night.

My little girl Aldridge, that is a beautiful little prayer, and I am very sorry that your child will not say it; all my babies say theirs as soon as they get their nighties on, without me telling them to. I am indeed sorry but please do not whip, or force him to say them; it is more example he needs; try to point out all the nice things, and the kindnesses to him as all coming from God. Tell him pretty stories, similar to fairy tales, every moment you have to spare, only let it be about some child afflicted in some way or miserably poor, and hungry, and how God, as a fairy, aided them. When he wants a new toy tell him you cannot spare the money, but that if he will pray to God, and be good that God will send money enough in some way to buy the toy, and in this way you will keep his heart thinking over the fairy stories, and win his heart in the way you want it, but when you say you have not money to buy, stick to it and don't buy until he prays in faith then keep your promise and get it if you have to go without a meal. Do not promise and deceive him.

Thanking you all for the many helps you have given me in the past, I am with sincere wishes for eternal friendship.

MRS. TONY KOGA.

Mrs. Tony Koga. We stay-at-home sisters are looking forward to a long letter from you telling us a lot of interesting things about your life in the land of cherry blossoms and about your babies too. Indeed we won't laugh at them for we know they are all you think them to be.—Ed.

CORNERVILLE, MD.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON: By all means let us all contribute our mite toward a home for Uncle Charlie. I am glad to see how enthusiastically many readers have taken to the idea and hope the good work will continue.

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ready for use with a common pen. It makes a clear mark and will not spread or wash out and will protect cotton, linens and heavier fabrics from confusion or loss. A household necessity for eighty-two years. Stationers and Druggists sell it in the old-fashioned red and yellow wrappers, or it will be sent prepaid for 25 cents by R. L. Williston, Northampton, Mass., Dept. C.

February Comfort

will be our big Washington, Lincoln and Valentine number with a raft of wit and wisdom, a lot of bright stories and a variety of entertaining, amusing and instructive matter.

Some Special Features for February

<p>"My Lady O'Crinoline"</p> <p>A charming romance of the Civil War, telling how a soldier boy won a sweetheart at a Valentine party of the enemy.</p>	<p>"Unique Mementoes of Washington"</p> <p>that give an intimate view of his private life and habits. These curious relics of priceless value are pictured and described.</p>
<p>"A Valentine Luncheon"</p> <p>telling how to entertain your friends enjoyably and how to prepare and serve the refreshments most attractively.</p>	<p>"Useful Valentines That Children Can Make"</p> <p>shows the children how to make pretty and useful valentines better than shop-made goods.</p>
<p>"Illustrated Lincoln Stories"</p> <p>A lot of jokes and amusing short stories that show Lincoln's wonderful wit, wisdom and kindness.</p>	<p>"The Wrong Way Out"</p> <p>A fine story that teaches what is a woman's due. If all would learn the lesson there would be less unhappy homes.</p>

Special, Low Rate for January Renewals

As an inducement to renew your subscription promptly this month we offer the special, low rate of 30 cents for a 2-year renewal. If you want the Comfort Home Album send 10 cents extra, 40 cents in all for your 2-year renewal and the Album.

If the number over your name on the wrapper in which this paper comes is 340, or any less number, it means that your subscription should be renewed at once. Send in your renewal today, if you don't want to miss January COMFORT. Use the coupon below.

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January, 1917.

Crums of Comfort

Worry is rust upon the blade.

Every misery one misses is a new blessing.

The most zealous are not always the wisest.

By persuading others we convince ourselves.

Worth makes the man and want of it the fellow.

What a man can do well is his greatest ornament.

The world is his who can see through its pretension.

The society of women is the element of good manners.

A very small bit of religion will make a good-sized cloak.

We may despise the world, but we can not do without it.

Books are a guide to youth and an entertainment to age.

If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be without it?

A pure mind in a fair body is indeed a fine picture in a good light.

To praise justly is to pay an honest debt; to flatter is merely a gift.

A house without family worship has neither foundation nor covering.

Being quick to condemn faults in others is no sign of being faultless.

Slander spreads like an oil-spot; we try to cleanse it, but the mark remains.

The respect of others is the first restoration of the self-respect a man has lost.

Foundations which must bear the weight of an eternal life must be surely laid.

When the Lord endowed man with brains He did not intend to guarantee them.

You can make money much easier with health, than you can make health with money.

It is somewhat remarkable that when a man is a brute he is the most vicious of all brutes.

The two things one never should be angry with are what he can help and what he can't help.

We have been put into the world, we know not why; we are taken out of it, knowing no more.

We should be as careful of our words as of our actions and as far from speaking ill as doing ill.

God made the lilies and God made man, both on the same broad principle of free and natural life.

There are few wild beasts more to be dreaded than a talkative person with nothing to talk about.

Keep yourself so busy with your own affairs that you can not spare time to meddle with other people's.

Why we are in the world at all is not to prepare to go out of it some day, but to serve God in it now.

Young men are apt to think themselves wise enough, as drunken men are apt to think themselves sober enough.

Keep in the midst of life. Be among people and among things and among troubles and difficulties and obstacles.

The superfluous blossoms on a fruit tree are meant to symbolize the large way God loves to do pleasant things.

Whoever lends an easy and believing ear to slander is of very bad morals, or has no more sense and judgment than a child.

The act of divine worship is the inestimable privilege of man, the only created being who bows in humility and adoration.

We should never be ashamed to own we are in the wrong because it shows that we are wiser today than we were yesterday.

Give bread to a stranger in the name of the universal brotherhood which binds all mankind under the common father of nature.

Never let us think evil of those who do not see as we do, but let us pity them and take them by the hand and spend time and thought over them trying to lead them to the true light.

Come and Join the Happiest Family in the World



LEAGUE RULES:

To be a comfort to one's parents.
To protect the weak and aged.
To be kind to dumb animals.
To love our country and protect its flag.

CONDUCTED BY UNCLE CHARLIE

COMFORT for one year and admittance to the League of Cousins for only 30 cents. Join at once. Everybody welcome.

NEVER send a subscription to Uncle Charlie, nor to the Secretary of the League.

NEVER write a subscription order or application for membership in the body of a letter. Write the order on a separate sheet from the letter, and then both may be mailed together in the same envelope.

ADDRESS all letters to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine. See instructions at the close of this Department.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. Hop up onto my lap, for I want to have a real heart-to-heart talk with you all about the big things of life, things that vitally concern everyone of you.

Last year I hammered away for months on the subject of preparedness and Americanism. I told you what was expected of you as citizens of the greatest republic on earth, tried to inject some real patriotism into your sluggish souls, tried to make you understand that you are living in the most tremendous period of the world's history, tried to make you realize that that terrific conflict in Europe, which President Wilson, at the beginning of the war told you did not concern us, does concern us just as vitally as it does those nations who are engaged in it. Remember that your future and the future of America, as well as the future of England and Germany, France, Austria and Russia, in fact the future of the whole human race is being decided right now on the bloody fields of Europe. Nearly a score of nations have been plunged into the fiery crucible of war, and from that molten furnace of hell, hate, ambition and lust, will emerge a new world. It may be a better world, it may be a worse world. That all depends whether democracy wins, or autocracy triumphs, whether the people are to be on top, or divine right monarchs are still to control and hold in the hollow of their hands the lives of millions of unfortunates. Whatever happens, when the time comes we have got to be ready to battle for the cause that needs assistance, and the wrong that needs resistance, and the time may come any moment, and we must be ready to quit ourselves like men, to play our part nobly and well. This is the most tremendous moment in the history of man on this planet, and I want you all to realize the deep significance of that fact, and all it means to you and every living creature.

There is a foolish idea purposely spread by peace for profit papers to fool the Henry Dubbs, that when this war comes to an end, the old world will be a broken reed, morally, spiritually, financially and physically. While this war has been one of devastation it has also been one of regeneration. The barriers of caste and class have crumbled to dust and greed and selfishness have been replaced by sacrifice, devotion and heroic service. The Central powers are losing nearly a million men a year, but every year eight hundred thousand youths come to military age. The population of Russia increases by leaps and bounds. Three million souls have been born into that country since the war started. It is the same with all other countries. Nature makes up the ravages of war with an unstinting hand, and science sends ninety per cent of the wounded back to the firing line again.

During this great war Europe has been growing thin, while we have been accumulating fat. But Europe has not been destroying herself or plunging to ruin. Instead she has been shedding the superfluous flesh of luxury, idleness, pleasure and high living, until today she stands like a trained athlete, ready for industrial or military war, mobilized and organized to the last man, woman and child. While Europe has been growing vigorous and strong, acquiring youth and virility, America has been growing weak, decadent, luxurious and wasteful, until at last conditions have been reversed, and the old world has become the new world, while the new world has become the old. Since the war began we have become a creditor instead of a debtor nation. Once we were always in Europe's debt, now Europe is in our debt. Two and a half billion dollars, much of it in gold has come to these shores during the last two years, and yet we have sent but thirty-five million dollars—a mere beggarly pittance—to help those European countries devastated and made helpless by the ravages of war. The giving as usual has been left to a few, the vast masses of the people have done nothing, though millions have died and are dying in Europe right now, dying for us, dying so that we may be free and that government of, for, and by the people shall not perish from the earth.

Europe has found her soul, we, alas! have not yet found ours. Before the war is over more than half the gold supply of the entire earth will have found its way to these United States. There is not a country in the world that has any particular love for us and by many nations we are hated and despised. The fatter and richer we grow the more liable to attack we become. Envy and hate can soon forge an excuse to vent their violence. Then too our very weakness from a military point of view is an open invitation to attack.

We have been, and are still living in a fool's paradise. We have had preparedness parades that have simply staggered the imagination, but there was not an atom of sincerity or real patriotism among those who marched in them. We have had flags, banners, brass bands, fireworks, and patriotic, spread eagle speeches, that cracked both eyes and ears. Millions have been willing to march for their country but enlist and fight for it—never. We will do the marching, but the other fellow must do the fighting, has been the craven cry from East to West. It's another case of "Let George do it," and George has gotten tired of being kicked around, and simply refuses to do it until he has a stake in his country, gets a square deal and has something to fight for. Under the shadow of our great Capitol at Washington, passed a preparedness parade of fifty thousand people. The following day recruiting stations were opened, and a hundred officers and men were up at sunrise looking for business. They expected that wonderful patriotic outburst would bring at least a thousand recruits, but their combined efforts after fourteen hours of hard work produced but one man and he wasn't a resident of Washington. Captain MacGonigal in charge of the recruiting stations fired with indignation and disgust, wrote to the Washington Herald next day and said: "Patriotism! I'm beginning to think this town hasn't any. Plenty of people come in here and talk to me all day long, but they don't enlist. Instead they give me a nice long lecture on the curse of war, and wind up by telling me I ought to be ashamed of myself for coming down here and trying to lure the young men off to be food for cannon. Thus far I've stood for it and kept my temper, but my patience has been strained to the breaking point." One recruit out of fifty thousand preparedness parades! So much for our patriotism, once our greatest asset, our pride and glory and now something that has ceased to exist. Our people

do not realize that no country is worthy of self government or can long retain self government unless it is ready and willing to defend that government.

There must be a cause for this apathy and there is. The vast masses of the people are not satisfied with the way this country has been and is being run, and well may they be dissatisfied for it is always run more or less in the interests of the few while the needs of the many are forgotten. Then too any program of preparedness and of national security in time of war that is not superimposed on a foundation of social and economic security in time of peace, is false to the needs of a nation's life. What this country needs is constructive statesmen, statesmen who will deal with the humanities as well as with business. But, alas! it is overrun with hordes of destructive politicians. Before you can expect people to become patriotic you must give them something to be patriotic about, a country must be worth living in to be worth dying for. We have such a country and we create enormous wealth, but it goes into too few hands, and though we

live in a glorious land endowed by nature with inexhaustible riches, and though wages and living standards here are higher than in nearly any country on earth, life is not what it should be for many of our people.

America today is not a nation. It is a mere hodge podge of forty-eight loosely jointed states, nearly all of these states are in the hands of political rings whose sole idea is to fatten at public expense. Most of these states too, have conflicting and radically different sets of laws and are inhabited by millions of people, whose hearts, souls and sympathies are with the monarchical countries of Europe, and millions more who care for it only for what they can get out of it, and who think they have a right to extract the last gallon of oil, the last ton of coal, the last ounce of copper, the last nugget of gold, and sweep from its surface the last stick of timber and the last grain of wheat without giving to the state one hour of service or one atom of devotion. These latter are the hogs of creation, drunk with materialism, soused with profit, and mad with power, and the worst of it is we have millions more among us who envy this type of human hog and though they curse him and the country that produced him, would act exactly as he does if they had the opportunity. It was Cromwell who welded the British nation into one strong articulate whole. It was Bismarck who took the scores of little German states and made them into the mighty empire whose power and efficiency enables it to defy almost the whole world. Germany was poor and poverty-stricken; in half a century of organization, cooperation and social legislation she became the wonder of the world.

Today we have the richest country on the face of the earth, but thanks to bad management, stupidity, folly, lack of vision, ideals and patriotism, our country is but a weak, flabby, inefficient, disjointed, backward looking, unwieldy thing. Not until our forty-eight states are knit together in one harmonious whole, not until national organization, a more equitable distribution of wealth, a higher, broader and more practical and rational form of education, rekindle our ideals and deepen our spiritual life, shall we have a United States that is really and truly united. We must build a nation. We have the foundation, we have the material, but we lack the vision and the spirit. Europe has been reborn in two years, we too would be reborn in the same period, if the red-hand of war were chastening and purifying us, as it is the peoples of the old world.

We however, do not want war, though I believe as was set forth in the pastoral letter of the Protestant Episcopal Church recently, that God hates a godless and empty peace as much as He hates an unrighteous war, and our peace is god-

less, for it is a mere cloak that covers an industrial war that is at times as relentless as that which is now taking place in the old world.

Again what is wrong with America? Anyone who has the soul of a flea and the vision of a bat, must know what ails us is the lack of social justice and the need of social legislation to smooth out the festering sores in our social and political life and to narrow the awful chasm that exists between the haves and the have nots, the rich and the poor. One or two sessions of Congress could bring harmony into our national life and relieve millions of homes from the ever pressing fear of want, unemployment and sickness. Why does not Congress take action? It is common knowledge that two per cent of the people own sixty per cent of the nation's wealth, 35 per cent of the people own 33 per cent of the wealth, while 65 per cent of the people own but five per cent of the nation's wealth. Those figures come from one of our government's own commissions. We spend six billion dollars annually for institutions to take care of the derelicts of society. We have nearly three million children who have no schooling. One eighth of our babies do not live to complete the first year of their lives. Our state institutions are simply loaded down with the feeble-minded, criminal, insane and degenerate. Tens of thousands are killed or injured in industries who might be saved to the nation by care and safety appliances. Ninety per cent of our immigrants are allowed to go to the city while vast stretches of land lie uncultivated. During the winter tens of thousands of unemployed throng our cities. Annually in the United States there are 600,000 deaths which might be prevented if existing knowledge of hygiene were properly applied. At least half of the three million and more sick beds which are constantly filled in the United States are unnecessary. The financial loss from earnings by those cut off from preventable diseases or premature death, amounts to \$1,500,000,000 annually, and over fifteen years are lost to the average life through the lack of application and knowledge which already exists, but which simply has not yet been disseminated and applied.

Only fourteen in a hundred of this nation's children ever enter the first year of high school, only one hundred and ten in a thousand ever finish the fourth year of the high school course. We are spending hundreds of millions for military preparedness, and we are wise to do it, and must do it, but most of that money will be wasted unless social preparedness and military preparedness go hand in hand.

Let Congress take notice, appoint a Minister of Welfare, gather together the brainiest and big-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.)

WANTED! We Want 300 Agents at \$35 to \$70 a Week

NEW INVENTION—just out. Needed in every home every day. Patent just applied for. Nothing else like it. Supplies what every housewife has wished for for years. Perfected after long experimental work by mechanical experts. Low priced—anyone can use it—**sells on sight.** We want three hundred representatives at once—men or women hustlers—to advertise, accept orders and manage deliveries for our new **Quickedge Knife and Shear Sharpener.** Sharpens any kitchen knife, paring knife, carving knife, bread knife or shears and scissors in ten seconds. Agents are taking orders at every house—wiring for rush shipments. Write today for this opportunity to make \$10 to \$20 every day, over

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This little machine is a mechanical masterpiece. A child can use it. Just put knife in slot—turn crank—grinds automatically—draws blade to keen, sharp, perfect, lasting edge at absolutely correct bevel for daily use. Nothing to adjust—nothing to change, nothing to wear out or get out of order—**absolutely guaranteed**—will last for years. Once they see it and use it,

women will not do without it for ten times its cost. One agent wrote: "It was easier for me to learn to sell the Quickedge than it was to learn to tear open my pay envelope in my former dollar-a-day job." Get out of the dollar-a-day class. Get this position, where profits start the first day.

No Experience Required

Just take one of the machines to any house and show it—give a ten-second demonstration upon the dullest knife in the house; **the order is yours right on the spot; instantly.** No talking necessary. No argument. The machine simply sells itself; and **stays sold.** Every customer becomes your friend. They tell others; your profits double and multiply. Leave one hundred on trial over night. Collect the cash for every one of them next day. **The machine will do its own talking;** it is so easy to operate, no explanations or instructions are necessary. Secure your county now; **free.** Get started right now and

Make as Much Money Next Week as These Men are Making Now

J. C. Lewis, of Kansas, says: "I have sold one hundred Sharpener in four days." Hobart Kerr, of Md., writes: "The women can hardly wait till they get them." Herbert Cain, of Ky., sold nine after supper. At the end of his first day, J. W. Gordon, of Pa., writes: "I have sold two dozen, and I sold to everyone I saw." Wm. G. Hall, of N. J., says: "I think it is great. I sold six in about one-half hour. The machine is a mighty fine proposition. I am a mechanic, and I know what I am talking about." Peter Courtland, of Mich., writes: "I received your sharpener and opened it in a barber shop. I ground his shears, and I got an order for one right on the spot." H. A. Henkel, of Va., says: "I have examined it and find it a wonderful little machine. The workmanship is simply perfect." Frank King, Colo., says: "Sample received Saturday. Sold ten today. Sell to most every house." Forest Webb, of Pa., says: "Went out Monday afternoon for about three hours and received one dozen orders. Profit \$12.00." H. Tillery, of Tenn., writes: "Took three orders first hour. When you sharpen an old knife, dull, as a hoe, in less than a minute, they set up and look." Ray Carter, of Mass., writes: "I went out two days and have orders for thirty sharpeners." Profit \$30.00 for first two days. John Durr, of Wis., also says: "I have sold thirty in two days."

You can make this money. **Send now.** Territory free. Get busy. **WRITE TODAY**

The Quickedge Sharpener Co.

No. 639 Sharpener Bldg.
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Only \$1.50 Selling Price

Low price, ease of operation, astonishing quickness and absolute perfection of results, money-back guaranty. These things make the Quickedge the fastest seller of the age—the biggest money-maker for agents, general agents and managers ever invented.

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The Doings of The Dapperlings

By Lena B. Ellingwood

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CHAPTER IV. CHIPPY CHATTER

"NATTIE, Nattie, come! We're almost ready to start." The Smallest Dapperling of All didn't want to get down. Dapperlings' beds are hung from the ceiling, on springs, so you see they get DOWN, instead of getting UP, as we do. If you never slept in a Dapperling bed, and I don't suppose you ever did, you have no idea how warm, and soft, and cozy a bed can be.

Nattie was still sleepy when she came to the door, but once outside, she was wide awake enough.

It was a lively scene. How astonished Pittysing and Simmie-Sammie would have been if they had seen it! The early morning air was fresh and keen. The stars were twinkling gaily at one another, and the moon, just a mere scrap of it left, was still in the eastern sky.

The Dapperlings were out in full force, calling out happy greetings, and at the foot of the hill, all saddled and bridled, and anxious to be off were the rabbits.

At last all the Dapperlings were mounted, and away they went. The rabbits were feeling frisky, and leaped and bounded along, up the hill, through the woods, away and away, while the moon and stars faded and the eastern sky grew rosy. By and by the great, round, shining, beautiful sun came up above the mountain. Then the mists cleared away, the air grew warmer, and it was broad day.

On a distant hillside, miles away, was another Dapperling village, and at the foot of the hill our Dapperlings got off their rabbits to make a call on their friends.

They had a fine visit, and wandered around, looking over the place, laughing and talking sociably.

Nattie, with another little Dapperling, was looking for strawberries, when they heard a queer little sound, something like a cough, something like a sob. They started to run, but Nattie said, "We're not 'fraid-cats, let's find out what the trouble is."

Then the other little Dapperling said, "Oh, it must be something caught in one of the snares." And, sure enough, it was.

A snare had been made by tying a horse-hair noose to a little bush, which was bent over and fastened down by a tiny twig stuck into the ground. Behind the noose had been placed some beechnuts.

A little squirrel had spied the nuts, foolishly run his head through the noose, when up went the little bush, and he was caught fast. He turned his bright eyes upon the Dapperlings and tried to scold at them, but the noose was too tight around his neck.

All of a sudden, Nattie made a beautiful plan. "Who set the snare?" she asked. Then, without waiting for an answer, she went on, "Oh, do you s'pose they'd give that squirrel to me? I want him dreadfully, for a very special purpose."

When she had heard all about Nattie's plan, the other little Dapperling said, "I'll help you coax for him. I'm sure they'll give him to you."

So they ran back and told the others about the squirrel, and what Nattie wanted of him. They all thought it a very nice plan, indeed, and said she might have him. But the next question was, how to get him home?

Then old Shandle-Spinx, who was really kind-hearted, though you never would have guessed it to look at his face, said, "I'll manage that. I'll tie his feet together and take him up in front of me, on my rabbit's back."

Nattie clapped her hands for joy, and wished they would start for home that minute, though she was too polite to say so.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.—The Dapperlings are kind-hearted, gay little elf-like beings who ride on rabbits and never let themselves be seen by human eyes because of their belief that, if seen, it would bring some terrible calamity upon them. For this reason their queer little houses are always built into the hillsides, and are so made, with doors and windows in front and grass growing on the backs, that they can be turned around to face out when the Dapperlings are by themselves; but as soon as anybody comes in sight the houses are whirled around so that only the grass-covered backs are seen and, as these look like the rest of the hill, you would never know the houses were there. They also have an underground assembly hall with an opening in the top covered with moss and concealed in a clump of thistles.

Down by the mill brook in the meadow near the Dapperling village is the favorite playground of five-year-old Simmie-Sammie Smith and his sister Pittysing, nearly two years older, but, of course, they don't know anything about the Dapperlings. Nattie, the Smallest Dapperling of All, is not afraid of these children. She would play with them if the Dapperling rules permitted, and she does meddle with their playthings slyly and unseen, much to their bewilderment. She takes Pittysing's doll and embroidery scissors, when she isn't looking, and carries them to the assembly hall to show to the other Dapperlings. Later, Pittysing stumbles into the opening through the top of the assembly hall and finds her lost doll decked in a wonderful Dapperling dress which she believes to be the work of fairies.



THE RABBITS WERE FEELING FRISKY AND LEAPED AND BOUNDED ALONG.

They had dinner first, a picnic dinner, which they ate sitting in the shade of some tall, green ferns, while the rabbits nibbled away at fresh clover-tops.

After dinner was over, they saddled their rabbits, said good by to their friends, and set out on their long ride home.

Nattie was so interested in her squirrel she kept turning around to watch him, and fell off her rabbit twice. If he hadn't been the tamest, quietest rabbit of them all, he would certainly

have run away, and left her to get home as best she could.

Old Shandle-Spinx had plenty of trouble, for the squirrel never had gone riding on a rabbit's back before, and he didn't like it. And he never had had his feet tied together before, and he didn't like that! So he squirmed and twisted, and used every one of his strong little muscles trying to get away.

When they got home, the squirrel was shut into the assembly hall, with some water and

plenty of food, where he stayed until next morning.

Then Nattie, with the help of Zipzang, another of the Dapperlings, took him down to the little Mill Brook, where the children played, and hitched him by the horse-hair to a leg of the barrel-top table.

For this was the beautiful plan the Smallest Dapperling of All had made—she would give him to Pittysing. She had been feeling sorry for poor Pittysing ever since she got into trouble over the doll and the scissors. You see, it was all Nattie's fault, so she felt that she ought to do Pittysing a kindness, to make up for it. And what would a little girl be likely to enjoy more than to have a live, bright-eyed little squirrel for a pet?

Nattie put a little pile of beechnuts under the table, to keep the squirrel contented. Then Nattie and Zipzang hid behind a bush and waited for the children to come. And what do you think happened?

Sly old Cattie Puss, with her shining green eyes, saw that squirrel, and came creeping, creeping along so still that she was almost ready to spring upon him before the Dapperlings saw her at all.

Well, it wasn't any harm to let a CAT see them, and after all the trouble they'd had getting the squirrel to give Pittysing, they were not going to stand quietly by and see Cattie Puss gobble him up—no, indeed! So they both rushed out from behind the bush, and screaming as loud as ever they could:

"Woo!" "Boo!" "Shoo!"

And Zipzang flourished a little stick right in front of those big green eyes.

Cattie Puss was so scared she forgot all about the squirrel. She turned and ran, and didn't even stop when she got home, but ran right on past the house over to Grandma Brown's, where the door stood open. There she sneaked in, ran up the back stairs, and hid under Grandma Brown's bed.

Pittysing and Simmie-Sammie had been helping their mother that morning, washing the dishes while she made strawberry preserves.

Simmie-Sammie had only broken one saucer, and that was a cracked one, so it didn't count, and after Pittysing had rinsed the dish towels and spread them on the grass to dry, their mother gave them some cookies and a dish of the strawberry preserves.

"We'll play we're travelers going across a big desert," said Pittysing, "and the Mill Brook will be a spring of water in a—a—oh, I don't remember what they call it but in a green place—and we'll eat our lunch there. Where's Cattie Puss? She can be a yellow camel."

They couldn't find Cattie Puss, so they crossed the desert without any camel. When at last Nattie saw them coming, it seemed to her she had never seen them walk so slowly before.

"Hush!" warned Pittysing. "Simmie-Sammie Smith! There's a little squirrel right under our table! Keep still's you can. I'm going to give him some cookie crumbs."

"He's tied!" cried Simmie-Sammie. "See? He can't get away. Oh, Pitts, I'm going to put him in that old bird cage up stairs, an' keep him always."

"He's mine, for I saw him first," Pittysing reminded him. She pulled off her apron, threw it over the squirrel, broke the horse-hair that held him, and picking him up, wrapped in the apron, started for home. Simmie-Sammie ran along beside her, holding her dress.

"It AIN'T yours!" he sobbed. "You've got a cat, an' a piano, an' a doll—two dolls! An' I ain't got nuffin!"

"Why, you've got a rocking-horse, and a hen, and a Teddy Bear—oh, lots of things! But never mind. Don't you cry, and Chippy Chatter'll be OURS! That's what's going to be his name—Chippy Chatter!"

The Dapperling story for next month tells how Nattie is seen by Pittysing and what happens.

Comfort Sisters' Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8.)

Some years ago I entered one of the large New York hospitals to study nursing. In one of the wards, very sick and poor, lay Uncle Charlie, wracked with pain but enduring his suffering uncomplainingly. Friendless, penniless, always cheerful, he held close to his idea of making this world a happier and more livable place. At the time I little thought to see his dream materialize, but he has "followed the gleam" and succeeded.

When he entered the hospital he entered a home for incurables. Wretched as I thought him in the hospital, his suffering and privation there were even more intense but he worked unceasingly and hopelessly until he secured a start. Then came the day when he was able to establish his little flat, a hen coop in very truth and for which rent must be earned every month and the poor, sick body so seldom able to bear the strain. But Uncle Charlie's efforts have drained his strength, though the will to go on is still strong within him. But should what little strength he has give way he might be forced to spend his remaining days in a hospital. Not a bright prospect and not one of us but what wish Uncle Charlie better fortune than that and we mean to keep up the good work till the better fortune proves true.

I have been deeply interested from the start in this Home Fund, for I know so very well how much it is needed and how deeply it will be appreciated.

LYDIA E. LASKOWSKI.

Miss Laskowski, Uncle Charlie will be surprised and delighted when he reads your splendid letter and I hope it will serve to keep up the interest in behalf of his Home Fund, which, as you say, means so much to him—Ed.

BOONEVILLE, ARK.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON AND SISTERS: Since my letter appeared in October Comfort I have received more than a hundred letters and all of them bright and comforting. They were a great pleasure indeed.

How I would like to answer all but I cannot, so am writing to all of you through dear old COMFORT. Several sent stamps for replies and I answered a few but I am too weak and nervous to write much. All of you who sent money, please accept my sincere thanks, for it came just in a time of need as the first of October I came here to the State Sanatorium and needed so many things. I have gained one and one quarter pounds in three weeks, since I came here. Booneville is in the extreme western part of the state and the sanatorium is five miles out from Booneville, among the pines.

Dear sisters, your kind letters did me more good than I can express and God will hear all your earnest prayers in my behalf. I just imagined all

those appeals going up to His throne at once and my heart was filled with the sweetest peace and contentment.

Some of the letters I received were urging me to try Christian Science, some Divine Healing and others sent recipes for remedies—all of which I put away for future need as I can use nothing of that kind while I am in the sanatorium.

I am a Baptist and I believe God will help those who help themselves. I have lots of faith in God and I believe so much in prayer and since I have received all your good letters my faith has been strengthened wonderfully. Will all of you dear ones accept this as an answer to your letter as I cannot do more?

Thanking you all for your kind remembrances and dear Mrs. Wilkinson for making it possible for me to receive them, I am your friend and sister in Christ, MRS. BIRDIE MILLION,

CALIFORNIA.

DEAR COMFORT SISTERS:

Please admit a sister who has been taking the paper for some time and enjoying it. My mother used to take it when I was a small child. I am twenty-three years old now and have been married but a few months and of course think my husband is one of the best. I've known him for years but hadn't seen much of him for six years as he was in the U. S. Navy. People may say what they want to about the blue jackets being bad boys but I'm here to say they are just like you find them the world over—there are good and bad in all professions and I pity them if they are any meaner than some men I've seen on the outside.

A few words to Mrs. Birdie Million of Arkansas. Have you tried eating raw eggs and drinking plenty of sweet milk and being rubbed with olive oil for your tuberculosis? I've seen that tried many times and it helped build the patient up.

Speaking of women having large families—I don't think it right unless the parents are able to care for the children and educate them and even then I think they should stop before the mother's health is gone. Some men want to keep their wives at home all the time and rejoice in the fact that they don't have time to go anywhere.

I'm glad to see so many states making it a law to use antiseptics in the new born babies' eyes—in the future we won't have so many blind children. There is nothing sweeter than a little flower of a baby and it is sad to think so many are blind through neglect, and not always in the poor families but in the wealthy as well.

About the divorce question, I think we should all do our best to please our husbands after marriage as we did before and then there would be fewer divorces. But if a divorce is necessary I think it is a sin for one party to marry as long as the other lives.

I'll come again and give some advice on the care of babies, as I was a nurse over four years and my special study was babies.

Wishing all happiness,

G. H.

NOVELTY, MO.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON AND SISTERS: After reading Miss Pearl Whitt's letter I can keep silent no longer. She says women have held the "reins of government" in their hands for the past six thousand years and "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." To read that you would naturally infer that the mothers were the only guides children had. Think of how many children have gone down to a drunkard's grave from a father's influence. This alone proves that fathers are helping to rule the world. Then she tells of a suffragette who registered at a hotel with eight different men, as the wife of each. She didn't stop to think that in telling of one indecent woman she was telling of eight indecent men. She speaks of woman suffrage as "usurping authority over the men." There is no true woman who wishes to do that but they do want equal rights with men and I am one of them and not the least bit ashamed of it either. I have known of wives and mothers where if they had had equal rights with men would have been well off. According to the law at the present time, after years of hard labor and saving a man and his wife may accumulate some of this world's goods which they have both worked for, and if the wife dies the husband is allowed to keep all the property but if the husband dies the wife must take a small share of the property while the balance goes to the children or her husband's relatives. If the husband has all the property, why not the wife as well? She is the weaker and needs it more and in most cases suffers more and works harder than the man does to earn it.

I have three sons and five little daughters and I don't want to die until I know that my daughters will have equal rights with me—mind you, I don't say "authority over men." It is no wonder that some men fight the suffrage movement just as the slave holders of old fought the freeing of their slaves. But God pity the woman who has become so accustomed to being a slave that she doesn't care to be free. If Miss Dora Ennis reads this letter, please write to me. With love to all, MRS. CALLIE SANDERS.

IRRIGON, OREGON.

DEAR COMFORT SISTERS:

I have written several letters to this corner but none of them have been printed. However, this time I have a real reason for writing as I want to talk on the divorce question. How can people say divorce is all right when one of God's commandments to us says plainly, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and in another place, "Whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder," and (Matt. xx.9) "Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another shall commit adultery; and whosoever marryeth her that is put away also committeth adultery." I suppose I could give other quotations from the Bible but these are enough, and unless you are an infidel, Mrs. C. Smith, you surely can't help seeing that marrying again after divorce is wrong. Please do not be of-

fended, Mrs. Smith. I am not trying to criticize or judge you, which I have no right to do. You wished to hear different opinions so here is mine.

Sisters, do you know there is only one way to really know whether you are doing right or not and that way is taking your question to God? I dare say if Mrs. Smith, before her marriage at seventeen, had earnestly and sincerely asked God's guidance, knowing she would receive it, she would not have made her great mistake. I am only seventeen years old myself, but I know that is true. Why will people stray from the only path of happiness and then when they find themselves drifting deeper and deeper into misery seek the world's way out of it? Whenever we find ourselves in deep trouble we might as well drop things right where we are and go to God with the things that are making us miserable. Sisters, if any of you who read this letter are downhearted or discouraged or in trouble of any kind, stop right now, before you do another thing and go and make your heart right with Jesus Christ. If you will search your heart for a moment you will realize that you must cast your cares upon the Lord before you can be happy.

I have seen many women going through their everyday routine of household tasks in a monotonous way, doing just what had to be done and grasping at a little pleasure now and then which was forgotten as soon as it was over. And that is just the way a great many women go through their whole life, and let me ask you, when they are gone how much better off is the world for their having lived in it? This may sound pretty strong but nevertheless it is true; that is just exactly what you, sister, are doing if you are not a real Christian. I'm not speaking of make-believe Christians, but real ones, Christians at heart are the only persons who ever really succeed in life, measuring by the true standard of success, and they are, as well, the only ones who are really happy.

You may tell me I am young and carefree and to wait till I begin to see some real trouble, and so on—then indeed is when I'll be glad I learned to lean on Jesus Christ when I was young and his comradeship will be doubly—oh, a hundredfold—more sweet. Here I am preaching a regular sermon and I started to talk about divorces. Just the same, not until we get down to the bottom of things can we see these different things in their true light and if we take that light from the Bible we know we are right. So I wanted you to get that viewpoint and then tell me if you think divorce is right.

With sincere kind regards to all of you, Your little-girl sister,

ETHEL DORRIS.

GRATON, N. DAK.

DEAR MRS. WILKINSON AND SISTERS: Just a hasty call to COMFORT and I promise not to tarry and prevent some other sister from joining this ever sunny corner.

COMFORT and its readers did not disappoint me when I came to them in my loneliness, isolation and ill-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.)

The Pretty Girls' Club

Conducted by Katherine Booth

Framing the Face

POLLY has pretty features, yet never looks pretty. Ann has a high forehead, prominent ears, and not a particularly pretty face, yet she is always attractive. And Polly's reason and Ann's reason are one and the same—their hair!

Polly doesn't know what to do with hers, and so her pretty face looks out at you from an ugly frame. Ann has spent many painful half-hours experimenting, until she has learned just how to dress her hair to lower the line of her forehead, conceal her ears, and provide a becoming setting for her almost plain face. And so, on coming away from her, if one were to ask if she were pretty, you would promptly say: "Yes!"—yet she isn't.



COVER THE EYES WITH THE HAIR BUT NOT IN SUCH AN EXTREME MANNER AS THIS.

Oh, there's witchery in hair, girls, and you must learn to do yours to the best advantage. If you are young, and smooth skinned, and clear-eyed, and have a good low forehead, you may, if you choose, brush your hair softly back from your brow. But never, never, may you do this if your forehead is high, or if you have passed the thirty mark.

You may part your hair in the middle at any age—if you don't care how old you look—but if you wish to look as young as possible, try parting it a little to one side of the middle and only part half way back. It takes away half a dozen years at least.

With large ears, do the hair loosely and let it entirely cover the ears. You will have to handle the hair in sections to do this, as the section which covers the ears should be pushed forward a very tiny bit on the cheeks while the section just above does not want to be quite as far down on the forehead; so must be drawn back separately and pinned with separate pins. Of course when all the sections are pinned back, the hair looks as if handled in one piece.

I say to do this "with large ears," but I should go a step further; for unless you have the French style of face and are brushing your hair back and up, with absolute severity, into a plain French twist (and few faces can stand such severe lines), your hair should be dressed to at least partially cover the ears. If the hair is drawn away and up from them, it is impossible to get a soft, fluffy effect. While if the hair is permitted to half cover the ears, or even entirely cover them, a loose effect can be readily secured.

A rather attractive way of doing the hair, for a young face, is to adopt the side part (just half-way), draw the hair, in sections, loosely back to the nape of the neck, tie tight close to the head, divide in two sections, and do in two closely touching coils flat to the head.

A very good style for an older face, and one indeed becoming to almost any age, is as follows: Part a square from the crown part way down the back of the head then pin it in a tight flat coil; draw the parted front hair over this in two sections, pinning, then coil the ends on the back of the head; next, draw the left back and side hair (with ends turned under) over it and pin tight, finally draw the right back and side hair (ends turned under) up toward and just below the crown, and pin securely.

See what you can do with your hair this month.

Answers to Questions

Dora.—The scar on the cheek is difficult to remove. Probably the best you can do is to massage it gently with the finger-tips a couple of times a day. Dip the fingers in cold cream before massaging. Yes, brown hair can be dyed red, but it should be done by a professional. I never recommend dyes to an amateur, because it is a difficult task, and the novice is almost certain to ruin her hair.

Mrs. Ida W.—I am sorry it is against the rules of this department to answer letters by mail. I presume since your letter was written you have read the directions for taking the milk diet, which I published.

Mrs. Winnie C.—Get cocoa-butter from your druggist. It comes in small cakes. Hold a cake over a flame and while warm rub it on the breast gently, round and round, following the shape of the bust. Use it once a day. Be careful not to rub vigorously. Taking the milk diet is really a better way to increase the size of the bust, and the exercises I have given are also very effective.

Worried Sister.—I wish I knew how much you weighed before I gave you any directions about reducing. For five feet five inches, you should weigh one hundred and forty, with a bust and hip measurement of thirty-eight and one half inches. I do not know just what you mean by a "short diet." If you mean you are cutting down the amount you eat, that may not be at all necessary, indeed may be undesirable. Just avoid potatoes, rice, macaroni, fats, gravies, sweets, cereals, cream, milk, much butter or sugar. But do not do this unless you are really overweight. For otherwise the body needs all these elements. Eat plenty of fruits daily. See answer to "Mrs. P. D." for formula for Epsom Salts Reducing Paste. I don't believe you need to use it, however. The lactic tablets are perfectly safe, but why use them, unless you weigh one hundred and sixty or something like that? By attempting to reduce, if you do not need it, you are likely to impair health, complexion and general appearance; so go easy, my dear.

Gray Eyes.—Read this month's chat with my girls for an answer to your question about eye-brows. Do not use the lotion you suggest, for your tan. Try this instead:

Face Bleach

Fifteen drops of tincture of benzoin, one ounce of strained honey. The white of one egg, enough ground barley to make a paste which will spread easily. Cut a piece of cheese-cloth to cover the face, making holes for eyes, nose and mouth. Spread the paste on the face, cover with the cheese-cloth and wear all night. In the morning, remove mask, wash face with warm soapy water, then rinse in warm water, and dry. Repeat for several nights.

Mrs. P. D.—The Epsom Salts reducing paste is as follows:

Epsom Salts Reducing Paste

Dissolve one and one half bars of white kitchen soap in a quart of boiling rain-water, over the stove. When the soap is all dissolved and you merely have a liquid, add to this a pound of Epsom Salts which has been dissolved in a pint of rain-water. The soapy liquid should be partially cooled before adding the salts solution. Beat. Massage this preparation into the fleshy parts of the body at night and allow to dry on the skin. Wash off in the morning. Twice a week lie for several minutes in a tub of very hot water in which you have dissolved half a boxful of ordinary baking soda. When you are very hot indeed jump out, dry yourself very rapidly and wrap yourself in a warm blanket. Lie down for half an hour, and let yourself perspire heavily. At the end of that time, rub in the Epsom paste.

Evelyn May.—The thing for you to do is to keep your body in good healthy condition, for the health of your hair depends on that. Eat plenty of good nourishing food, cereals, potatoes, rice, green vegetables, milk, cream, butter, fruits, meats, fish; exercise every day in the open air, and sleep with plenty of fresh air in your room. Shampoo your hair once in three weeks. There was a formula for shampoo liquid in last month's COMFORT. Brush it one hundred strokes every night. If your hair is curly, part it round the head, from ear to ear. Part the front half in the middle or a little to one side, from crown to forehead, and, slightly rolling each side away from the face, bring the two halves of the front together at the crown and tie with a big ribbon bow. Now let the ends of this hair fall in with the back half of the hair, and tie again just at the nape of the neck or fasten with a big shell barrette. If your forehead is high in the middle, parting the hair on one side will be best, since you can draw the hair down a little on the forehead; while if it is high on the sides, you should part it in the middle, and, when rolling it, let it lie out a little on the sides.

E. A. P.—See answer to "Evelyn May"—a good style for you, whether your hair is straight or curly.

Happy, Mont.—There is no cream which will fatten sunken cheeks, the only way to do that is to build up the body. Get to work at that. The milk diet is by far the best way and you will achieve your result in five or six weeks, I am sure. Try it.

Beulah M.—I am sorry it is against the rules of this department to answer letters by mail. The household ammonia is the kind to use for removing superfluous hair.

Perplexed.—I am sorry not to have answered your letter sooner, but, you know, to print a magazine with the immense circulation of COMFORT, the work has to be done a long time in advance, so no letter is sure of getting an answer inside of three months, and where there are so many, there is often more delay. However, so many of my girls ask similar questions, that quite often you will find an answer to the problem troubling you long before your own inquiry is reached by me. If your hair is so very oily, it shows that the little oil glands are not in a healthy condition. Sometimes, if the soap is not rinsed out of the hair thoroughly when shampooing, it clogs the scalp, checks the natural outlet of the oil, thus irritates the glands, and they begin to secrete an abnormal amount of oil. Keep the scalp perfectly clean and free from soap, rinsing ever so many times after each shampoo. Sun the hair in the open air, brush many times a night, massage the scalp with the finger-tips nightly, and shampoo once in two weeks. Massage will do more to make the hair grow than anything else. You can use this lotion rubbed into the scalp with the fingers, when massaging:

Lotion for Greasy Hair

Alcohol, one ounce; witchhazel, one ounce; distilled water, one half ounce; rosewater, twenty grains. After shampooing and rinsing the hair, always use cold water for the final bath—very cold water, so that the scalp receives a good healthy shock.

Brown Eyes.—You weigh too little for your height. For five feet six inches, the weight should be about one hundred and forty-three pounds. If your bones are large, you might weigh a little less and yet be in good proportion. You say your nose is too long. Perhaps it looks so because your face is too thin, and, when you get fatter up a trifle, the nose may not seem thin or sharp. There is nothing to do to make it smaller, but you should avoid doing your hair high on your head, or in a direct line with your nose—as in a Psyche knot; and in purchasing hats be sure to avoid any which have a wing or fold of velvet standing back from the face as if continuing the line of the nose. Nothing to do for the eyes which are smaller than you wish! Just keep them in good condition by washing out with boric acid in the morning—a three or four per cent solution; buy it in liquid form at your druggist's—by never missing them, and keeping the lids in good condition. But don't fail to increase that weight!

Miss M. H.—You can buy sulphuret of barium at your druggist's, or by mail from any drug-store. If you



PARTING THE HAIR SLIGHTLY TO ONE SIDE LENDS YOUTH TO THE FACE.

will notice what I said about using this as a depilatory, you will see I said the breast and come back near it should only be used on or under the arms, and not even then if you desire to get rid of the hair altogether, for it will surely come back.

Blue Eyes, Tenn.—For the excessive perspiration under the arms; first, take a body bath the first thing in the morning—it is not enough to just wash under the arms. Second drink quantities of water, for though it will come forth in perspiration, the perspiration will not have as strong an odor as if you drank less. Third, eat plenty of fruit for the same reason to make the perspiration as odorless as possible. Fourth, scrub the armpits whenever you change your dress during the day—two or three times, say. Have a soft flannel pad filled with corn-starch, and after washing the armpits and rinsing thoroughly, dry, then rub the end of a cake of slightly moistened soap over the armpit. Be careful to do this very lightly, so there is no visible soap left under the arm. Afterwards, use the flannel pad and pat the armpit. The corn-starch will sift out and powder the armpit. Be sure to keep the bowels very open, as all of these things affect the perspiration.

Blue Eyes, Tenn. (S. H.)—If your hair has not come in since typhoid fever, I expect it would be a good thing to cut it very short—almost shingle it. Probably you did not cut your hair when you had typhoid, as you might. I had mine shaved close to the scalp and it came out again as thick and strong as possible, though I was sick three months. Whether

you cut your hair or not, massage the scalp every night with your finger-tips. The principle thing you need to do is to feed the body well and get your health in perfect condition. Also brush the scalp every night.

M. A. N.—I am sorry that it is against the rules of this department to answer by mail. I gave an eyelash grower in last month's COMFORT, but for fear you have not seen it, use melted vasoline or warm olive oil, and brush the lashes gently with a muckbrush dipped in the oil. For a bust developer, exercise is the best remedy next to the milk diet, but since you ask for a "neck fattener," also, it is evident you need a general fattening, so the milk diet is the thing for you. Try it for six weeks.

Sunshine.—See "Gray Eyes" for "Face Bleach" which is a good "Neck Bleach."

Blue Bell.—Your weight is exactly correct for your height, one hundred and twenty-five pounds for five feet two inches. Bust and hips could add two inches in size without being too large. If your cheeks are not full, perhaps you are a little too fat in some places—the legs, possibly—and so, though the right weight, haven't enough to go round. If any part of you is unduly fat, reduce it, by local exercise; then fatten up a little more generally. Massage—very gentle—will help plump your cheeks; vigorous massage reduces, remember. Use, of course cold cream on the fingers in massaging. Be sure to get eight or nine hours of sleep daily, with lots of fresh air in the room. Nervous people invariably look thin in the face, even when they are rested, their faces seem to plump up. Keep this in mind.

Miss A. M. G.—You could weigh three pounds more for your height, your bust could be one inch larger, and your hips should measure the same as your bust; weight should be about twenty-eight or twenty-nine inches, though at nineteen it is natural that you should be more slender than later. If you have blue rings under your eyes, you probably aren't as well as you ought to be. Do you drink eight or nine glasses of water a day? Be careful about getting chilled when you do not feel well, and especially keep the ankles warm. You say your hands are red and you have some freckles. If you do much work outdoors it is hard to keep both hands and face from showing some signs of it, but a good healthy tan is not unbecoming. Wear broad-brimmed hats tied flat at the sides to shade the cheeks—or else wear a sunbonnet—that is, about your outdoor work. For the hands, scrub them scrupulously every night before going to bed with toilet soap (not the yellow kitchen soap, ever) and a nail brush. Then dry very thoroughly and carefully, and rub a good hand lotion in. If the water is hard, soften it with a few drops of tincture of benzoin or better still, use rain-water. It is a good plan to have a bowl of almond meal on your washstand, and after washing the hands and slightly drying, pour a little almond meal in the palm of one hand and rub both hands thoroughly with it.

Hand Lotion and Whitener

Rosewater, four ounces; orange-flower water, four ounces; borax, one half dram; spirits of benzoin, one dram; bruised almonds, one ounce.

Add the bruised almonds to the rosewater and orange-flower water, and let stand for twenty-four hours. After, then add the borax stirring until the latter is entirely dissolved, then add the benzoin, drop by drop, continually stirring. You can have your druggist put this up.

Cupie.—Oatmeal bags are not used for "bleaching" the skin—only for cleansing it, but they are so good for that that the skin looks whiter for their use. Fill a bag three inches square half full of rolled oats, then use as a wash-cloth, dipping in the water very quickly. Pat the face dry after washing. See answer to "Blue Bell" and "Happy, Montana."

Gray Eyes.—For your height, five feet ten inches, you should weigh one hundred and fifty-four pounds, so you have fourteen pounds to gain. You could do this the milk diet in one month or six weeks. Your bust measure is not too much, in fact could be one inch larger—forty-one inches; this is true, also, of the hip measurement. Your waist could be larger, as well. Here is an exercise for developing the muscles of the legs:

To Develop the Legs

Hands on hips, heels together, head erect and back straight, rise on the toes slowly, then, without letting the heels touch the ground, slowly lower the body by bending the knees while keeping the back perfectly straight, until it is in a squatting position, the buttocks touching the heels. Without moving the hands from the hips, raise the body to an erect position again, always keeping the back perfectly straight. Practise this fifteen or twenty times, twice a day.

Mildred.—The use of a depilatory removes the hair only for the moment; it always returns. The best method I know of for removing hair, next to electrolysis, which is, of course, the one sure, safe, quick way—is to use peroxide of hydrogen and ammonia. One day dampen the growth with peroxide, and the next day ammonia. The peroxide bleaches the hair, the ammonia kills the roots. It is a very slow process, varying in length with different people. If the ammonia irritates the skin, stop the treatment for a couple of days, then resume.

A COMFORT Reader.—Your bust measure, thirty-six, and hip measure thirty-six, and waist measure twenty-six, is about right for your height, five feet two. It might even be an inch larger without exceeding the accepted measurements, though if you are slenderly boned you probably need more. You do not rise face or hands sufficiently. Use soap on the face only at night. When washing the hands, rinse very thoroughly, and dry carefully. See answer to "Miss A. M. G."

I. C. D.—The milk diet is the best way to gain. Take it for six weeks or two months. You need to weigh about one hundred and twenty-five for your age and size. You have seen directions in COMFORT since your letter to me was written. Yes, cocoa-butter would cause the growth of superfluous hair if used on the face. If I were you, and only seventeen, I should leave my bust alone. A slender bust is considered the fashionable thing for a girl of your age, and, indeed, the society woman of today is very anxious to be slender in that portion of her body and makes strenuous efforts to achieve that result, so don't worry, and do let yourself alone. Do not use cocoa-butter elsewhere, and at your age it is not advisable to use it on the bust. To develop the legs, see answer to "Gray Eyes." Another good exercise for the ankles and lower part of leg, is as follows:

To Develop Calf of Leg

Standing with heels together, hands on hip, head up, back straight, rise on toes slowly until you are standing on their very tips. Now let the heel sink slowly to the floor, being as long about it as possible. Practise this exercise until the muscles of the leg feel tired.

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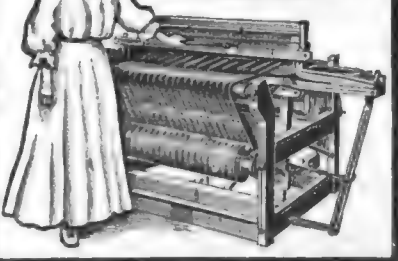
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PLAYS

Home Dressmaking Hints

Forecasts for Mid-Winter Fashions

By Geneva Gladding



As the season advances the styles become more attractive and pleasing. Especially noticeable is the popularity of the new one-piece coat dress, which is nice in serge, satin or velvet. Comfortable, practical aprons are always attractive to the neat housekeeper, and a model that protects the dress, and does not hamper the arm movements is to be recommended. Evening dresses show new and novel effects in Empire style.

Children's garments are quaint and attractive with the new pocket trimmings, the coatee effects and new yoke shapings.

Pattern Descriptions

ALL PATTERNS 10c. EACH
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1883—A Good Sensible Apron. This style has several practical features. It envelops the figure and is cut so wide over the shoulders as to almost supply sleeve sections. The fullness of the apron may be held by the belt or worn loose. Cut in three sizes; small, medium and large. It requires four and three eighths yards of 36-inch material for a medium size.

1881—Practical Cover-all Apron. Gingham, lawn, percale, alpaca, drill, linen, and sateen are all good for this style. The model is made to slip over the head and is closed in front with lacing through eyelets. This design could serve as a morning dress.

Cut in three sizes; small, medium and large. It requires five and three eighths yards of 36-inch material for a medium size.

1905—Dress for Misses and Small Women. The waist is full beneath the yoke sections which form part of the back. The full pockets on the fronts may be omitted. This model is good for gabardine, serge, novelty, plaid and check suitings, for velvet, corduroy and broadcloth.

Cut in three sizes; 16, 18 and 20 years. It requires five and one eighth yards of 44-inch material for a 16-year size.

1896—Ladies' Capes in several styles. One may have old furs that can be cut up to meet the styles, or one may make these attractive accessories of velvet, plush or other pile fabrics. Taffeta, corduroy, velour and faille are equally nice. The styles here shown are cut in three sizes; small, medium and large. It requires, for No. 1; one yard of 36-inch material; for No. 2, three quarters yard of 27-inch material for No. 3; one yard of 44-inch material.

1910—Waist. 1907—Shirt. An elegant gown for many occasions. Gabardine, serge, taffeta, voile, satin, velvet, corduroy and broadcloth are all nice for this model. The waist pattern is cut in six sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure.

The skirt is in six sizes; 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. It will require six yards of 44-inch material for a 36-inch size for this costume. Two separate patterns, 10c for each pattern.

1900—A new and attractive Ladies' Dress. This style is nice for satin, taffeta, serge, duvetyn, broadcloth, velour, gabardine and velvet. It would be effective and pretty in combinations of cloth and silk or satin.

Cut in six sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires six and three eighths yards of 44-inch material.

1885—Ladies' Combination of Corset Cover and Drawers. This model is fine for crepe, nainsook, batiste, lawn or silk. The cover may be finished with square or round neck outline.

Cut in seven sizes; 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires three and five eighths yards of 36-inch material for a medium size.

1898—Waist. 1892—Skirt. A Practical Business Costume. Novelty suitings, plaid or checked woolen, serge, voile, corduroy or velvet would serve for the skirt, while linen, madras, batiste, flannel or taffeta is nice for the waist. The waist pattern is cut in seven sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure.

The skirt in seven sizes; 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 inches waist measure. It requires two and three eighths yards of 36-inch material for the waist and three and three quarters yards for the skirt for a medium size. Two separate patterns, 10c for each pattern.

1913—A Serviceable Set of Bags. This group represents some new features in bags, attractive, practical and convenient. No. one is a smart, roomy work bag, with firm upper portions and ample space for any article one may wish the bag to hold. No. two is a dainty opera bag. No. three may be developed as a handbag, good for many uses.

These three attractive models are cut in one size; it requires for No. one, three quarters yard of 36-inch material, for No. two, five eighths yard and for No. three, one half yard.

1910—Ladies' Shirt-waist. Flannel, madras, lawn, batiste, chambray, taffeta, linen, drill, satin, faille, and other sensible materials may be used for this style.

Made in seven sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. It requires two and three quarters yards of 36-inch material for a 36-inch size.

1887—Ladies' House Dress, with sleeve in either of two lengths. Percale, lawn, dimity, gingham, chambray, drill, linen, seersucker and galatea are good for this model. The style is new and attractive. The skirt has ample fullness and good lines.

Cut in six sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires six and one quarter yards of 44-inch material for a 36-inch size.

1908—Ladies' Night Gown. This model may be made with an underfacing for eyelet closing and with or without yoke facings. It may have long sleeves with turnback cuffs, or short sleeves gathered to a band.

Cut in seven sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. It requires six and one eighth yards of 36-inch material for a 36-inch size.

1936—A Simple School Dress with sleeve in either of two styles. Striped woolen in brown tones was used in this instance, with trimming of brown velvet. The belt portions are stitched to form convenient pockets at the sides. The skirt is gored and is arranged in smart plaits.

Cut in five sizes; four, six, eight, 10 and 12 years. It requires three and one quarter yards of 36-inch material for a six-year size.

1903—Child's Dress, with or without pocket and belt, and with sleeve in either of two styles. Poplin, repp, serge, gabardine, gingham, percale, galatea, chambray, crepe, velvet or taffeta could be used for this style. It is also nice for challie and cashmere. The fullness of the dress may be gathered or smocked between the belt sections.

Cut in four sizes; two, four, six and eight years. It requires two and five eighths yards of 36-inch material for a four-year size.

1614—Child's Set. Comprising a yoke dress with sleeve in wrist or elbow length a slip and

one-piece drawers. These designs embody comfort and utility, and as they are simple in construction they are easy to develop.

The pattern, comprising all styles illustrated, is cut in four sizes; one, two, four and five years. The dress requires two and one half yards, the slip two yards and the drawers three quarters yard of 36-inch material, for a two-year size.

1918—Child's Rompers with round collar or square neck outline and with long or short

sleeve. Gingham, chambray, drill, galatea, flannel and serge are good for this style. The pattern is composed of a waist and bloomers which may be joined to the waist or buttoned on separately.

Cut in three sizes; two, four and six years. It requires three yards of 36-inch material for a four-year size.

1911—A Jaunty Junior Model. The waist and skirt may be finished separately or joined under the belt. The skirt is gored and arranged in smart plaits.

Cut in three sizes; 12, 14 and 16 years. It requires four and one half yards of 44-inch material for a 14-year size.

1500—Ladies' House Dress with two styles of collar, with long or shorter sleeves and with or without pockets. This style is good for gingham, seersucker, lawn, sateen, linen, and drill. It could be developed as a dress for business



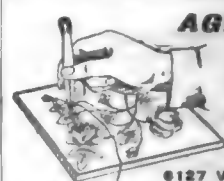
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wear. Ample pockets trim the skirt, which is cut with five gores.

Cut in six sizes; 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, and 42 inches bust measure. It requires seven yards of 36-inch material for a 36-inch size.

1891—A Smart and pretty style for Mothers' Girl. Serge, gabardine, voile, prunella, checked suitings and plaid mixtures, taffeta, velvet and corduroy are nice for this style. The trimming could be of matched satin on serge or of checked or plaid suitings.

Cut in four sizes; six, eight, 10 and 12 years. It requires three and three quarters yards of 36-inch material for a 10-year size.

1940—Ladies' Dress consisting of a one-piece overdress and an under-waist, with sleeve in either of two lengths. This design is lovely for combinations of material. In blue serge, with waist of crepe in a matched or contrasting shade, the model will be suitable for general wear and also for more formal occasions.

Cut in six sizes; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. It requires two and one half yards 44-inch material for the under-waist and three and seven eighths yards for the overdress, for a 36-inch size.

1938—One-piece overdress having an under-waist in surplice style, with sleeve in either of two lengths for misses and small women. This style is charming in its simplicity and especially adapted to slender figures.

Cut in three sizes; 16, 18 and 20 years. It requires four and one quarter yards of 44-inch material for the underdress, and three yards for the overdress, for an 18-year size. The under-skirt measures about two and one eighth yards at the foot.

1528—A Simple, Neat School Frock, with sleeve in either of two lengths. The design is nice for serge, for voile and corduroy. The skirt is a three-piece model, cut with graceful flare and ample fullness. The sleeve is good in either length.

Cut in four sizes; six, eight, 10 and 12 years. It requires two and one half yards of 44-inch material for an eight-year size.

1629—A Popular Apron. Just the thing to make "in a hurry" and to find convenient and comfortable ever after. This style is nice for gingham, seersucker, alpaca, sateen, lawn, linen, drill and percale.

Cut in three sizes; small, medium and large. It requires five and one half yards of 27-inch material for a medium size.

1615—Ladies' Camisole in Kimono Style. Batiste, dimity, nainsook, crepe, lawn or silk are nice for this style.

Cut in three sizes; small, medium and large. It requires one and one quarter yard of 36-inch material for a medium size.

1890—A Smart Coat and Cap for the Little Miss. Cheviot, plush fabrics, velour, broadcloth, velvet, silk, corduroy, tweed and similar cloakings are nice for this model. The fronts are single breasted. Deep pockets form a smart and serviceable trimming.

Cut in five sizes; four, six, eight, 10 and 12 years. It requires three yards of 36-inch material for an eight-year size, and three quarters yard of 24-inch material for the cap.

1909—A New Coat Dress for misses and small women. This model is ideal for the winter serges and gabardines and would be real smart in velvet, satin, corduroy or taffeta. This model is comfortable and practical.

Cut in four sizes; 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires six yards of 44-inch material.

1536—Girls' Dress with sleeve in either of two lengths. Blue serge with collar of white pique is here shown. The model is good for voile, gabardine, cheviot, and mixed suitings, also for galatea, chambray, gingham and percale.

Cut in four sizes; six, eight, 10 and 12 years. It requires three yards of 44-inch material for an eight-year size.

1825—A Simple, Practical Skirt Model. Wool poplin, faille, taffeta, gabardine, serge, mixed suitings, tweed, velour, velvet and corduroy are nice for this design.

Cut in six sizes; 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 inches waist measure. It requires three and three quarters yards of 44-inch material for a 24-inch size.

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HERE were four Tom Carters in the White Rock Mountain section. There was Big Tom and Little Tom, Long Tom and California Tom. It had not been the call of the wanderlust that had sent the latter-named Tom Carter to California; it had been an unhappy love affair. He hadn't stayed there long; he had spent four days in San Francisco, that was all. The city is merciless, very merciless, to the hill man. The city does not understand the mountaineer, and no more does the mountaineer understand the city. Your hill man, if he is true to his ideals, cannot look up to a foreman; he cannot ask too earnestly for work, and when he is down he can neither beg nor steal—under any ordinary circumstances. His pride may be primitive, but it is also the finest, as well as the most stubborn, pride under the sun.

When Lettie Allen married the son of her father's bitterest enemy, instead of Tom Carter, they went to Memphis, in the other end of the state, to live. They couldn't live on in their home country, for neither side would have them; they were cast out, and their names never mentioned; but they needn't have gone to Memphis. They needn't have gone to any city. Two years later Jonathan Perry died and left his young wife Lettie with a year-old baby and utterly without means.

Lettie lived in a hand-to-mouth existence in the outskirts, in a very poor little wooden house. In the narrow front yard she grew a round bed of marigolds; she had nothing but these to remind her of her beloved blue mountains. She worshiped the golden yellow flowers, and sometimes she wept over them when it was dark and no one could see.

During those two long, long years, California Tom had grown stern and silent. He had not forgotten Lettie Allen. He was not a man to forget anything. Tom remembered how cold San Francisco had seemed to him, and he reasoned that Memphis must seem equally cold to Lettie and the man she had married. No word ever came from them, which worried Tom. So he hid himself to Memphis, without letting anybody know where he was going, to see that all was well with Lettie and her husband. He didn't know of Perry's death, of course; he would have gone to Memphis sooner, had he known of that.

To find them in such a big town—that was the problem. He knew nothing of city directories. He looked for them as he would have looked for a squirrel or a wild turkey in his mountains; days and days he spent in watching for them on the streets. It required patience. And it required money. California Tom's money was all gone, and he was on the verge of starvation, when he found Lettie.

It was at sundown, and Tom was in the outskirts looking, always looking, for Lettie and Jonathan. He was tired; he was so weak from hunger that his steps were slow and halting, strangely like those of an old man. Then he saw her bed of marigolds. They were the first marigolds he had seen in Memphis, if he had not seen them, he would have passed her poor little house without knowing that she lived there. The marigolds found him for her.

Tom went in. The yellow flowers were so many messages of love from home to him—to him, lone and lonesome, a wanderer in a strange land. He sank down wearily, half delirious, beside them. For five minutes he drank in their fragrance gratefully. Then Lettie came out, and she carried her year-old child in her arms. "I might as well know you lived here, Lettie," said Tom, going to his feet with something like a new strength in his limbs. "How goes it with you and Jonathan and the baby, Lettie?"

"Tom Carter!" cried Lettie, her voice betraying both joy and sadness. "How come you here, Tom?"

"I just happened to be in town, and I thought I'd look you and Jonathan up," Tom smiled a little pitifully. "How goes it with you and Jonathan and the baby, Lettie?"

"Jonathan's been dead a long time, Tom," murmured Lettie. "Three months is a long time to a mountaineer alone in a big city; it is a century. She went on: 'They buried him in a place they call a potter's field.'"

"Do ye need anything, Lettie?" blurted Tom. Lettie straightened, for the hill pride was not yet dead. Then she turned her sad brown eyes toward her baby's wan face, and went deathly pale. A great struggle was going on in the little woman's heart. She looked back at Tom. He seemed so big and so strong, and so dependable. She didn't know of his gnawing hunger and his weakness.

"Yes," she admitted tremulously. Mother love is mightier, even, than the pride of the hills. "Yes, Tom, we need everything!"

With the last words she faltered. Tom caught her and carried her into the house. She still held her baby against her breast. Tom put her on a bed and revived her.

"Listen, Lettie," he said. "I got plenty o' money, and I'll go and get some good things to eat. Don't you worry now, Lettie, because I shore have got oodles o' money." He lied like a gentleman.

Tom made his way out to the fast darkening street, and as he went he whispered over and over to himself—"Thank God I come! Thank God I found 'em!"

The hill man walked a block, stopped and leaned against a decaying picket fence. How was he to get provisions? There was but one answer: He must steal them. He could, doubtless, he reasoned, beg something for them to eat; but begging was infinitely worse than stealing. An hour later California Tom broke into a small suburban grocery store and came out with two baskets full of packages, and he did it without being seen.

When the feast was over, Tom took the baby on his knee and looked inquiringly toward Lettie. "Would ye like to go back home?" he asked.

"They wouldn't let me come back," said Lettie. "Pap he told me ef I married one o' them low-down Perrys I couldn't never darken his door ag'in, and you know him well enough to know 'at he keeps his word."

"I believe he'd break it this one time," muttered Tom. "They're all tore up about you, Lettie. Ef you can't go back home you can go to my people, I'm shore o' that. You're got to leave here; you can't stay here no longer. This hain't no place for you."

"Ef I was to go to yore people—" He never knew what she meant to say, for she never finished. She lapsed into a thoughtful silence.

"Ef I'll loan ye the money," asked Tom. "Will ye go?"

She didn't answer. Again he asked the question, and again she made no answer.

"You used to love me, Lettie," murmured Tom. "Do you reckon you could ever love me any more? Ef ye could, we'd be married, and 'en you

could go back home without borrowin' money from anybody. I wish to goodness, Lettie, you'd say, 'yes.'"

"Yes!" said Lettie; and she smiled and was beautiful. "I allus loved you, Tom," loved you when I married Jonathan. Jonathan he lied to me about you, and he was mean enough to tell me about it afterward. He told me you said I'd be tickled to death to git you—and so, like a fool, I married him to spite you! Yes, Tom, I'll marry you, and I'll be glad to marry you, whenever you want me to!"

Tom rose and kissed her on the forehead; then he gave her the child and put on his hat.

"I've got a little business to tend to, and 'en I'll come with a license and a preacher, and we'll be married and git right on a train and go back home," said California Tom.

He kissed her again on the forehead, and went out to the street. Once more he walked a block, stopped, and leaned himself against a decaying picket fence. Where was he going to get the money necessary to pay their way back to eastern Tennessee?

For four successive days Tom Carter tried to get work and failed. There was work, but he didn't know how to find it. He hated to make more excuses to Lettie. Driven to desperation, he decided to turn robber long enough to get the money necessary for their trainfare and marriage expense. The house he picked out for the scene of his first burglarizing happened to be the home of a man high up in police circles, and Tom entered it an hour before the break of day, when most people sleep soundest.

He entered it by an up-stairs window that looked out upon the roof of a broad veranda. His hands trembled as he felt his way along the walls; they had never trembled like that before. Tom figured that a well-to-do family like that which lived in this house would keep money lying almost anywhere—on mantels, dressers, almost anywhere. He went down a broad flight of stairs without noise, and found a mantel. There was no money lying on it. Next he found a table, and there was no money lying there, either. Then he stumbled over something, and it made a noise. Tom held his breath. A moment later the lights flashed on, and a big, broad man in a long green robe appeared on the stairway landing with a revolver in his hand.

"Hands up—quick!" said the man. Tom put up his hands. The man of the house half turned to a sixteen-year-old boy who stood on the stairway above.

"Phone headquarters and tell them to send somebody out here after this burglar," he ordered.

The boy carried out his father's instructions. The man of the house then went to Tom and made sure that he had no weapons.

"Sit down," he said, not unkindly. Tom sat down.

"You don't look like an ordinary burglar," said the man with the revolver, taking a chair himself. "And I don't think you are an ordinary burglar. Why did you break into my house?"

California Tom Carter, from White Rock Mountain, told the lieutenant of police every-

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thing in a straightforward way. By the time he had finished the man from headquarters had come to make the arrest and it was daylight. "Hold him here," said the lieutenant, "until I dress myself. I want to make some investigations before I give him over to you."

Half an hour, and the three men came to a halt before Lettie Perry's poor little house. The eyes of the lieutenant of police were turned toward Lettie's bed of marigolds. Then the lieutenant looked toward silent Tom Carter.

"I don't want any more proof, Tom," he said. "We'll not bother your Lettie. Will you let me lend you enough money to marry you two and carry you back to your mountains?"

Tom's lips moved jerkily: "Shore!"

Two minutes later the lieutenant of police and the man from headquarters turned away from Lettie's gate. The lieutenant wore a marigold on his coat lapel.

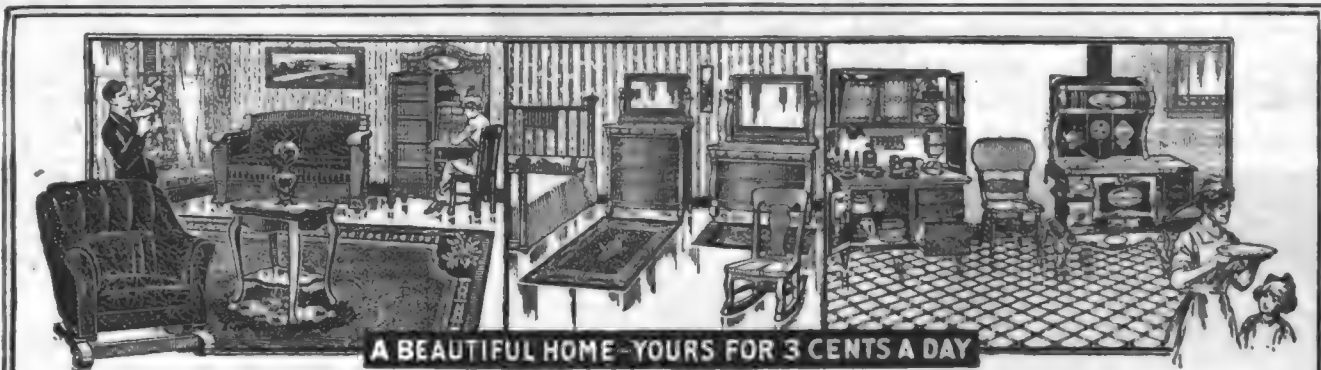
"You see," he said to his companion, "I came here from the mountains, twenty years ago, and I know how it is."

Comfort Sisters' Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10.)

ness, but answered the call at once. Hundreds and hundreds of letters came and even yet, an occasional letter comes. Through Comfort, I found a schoolmate of long, long ago, and was heartily made glad by a loving letter. Some addresses were too dim to read, being written with lead pencil—some wrote beautiful letters and sent cards and gave no address, but I thank everyone of them!

To the dear ones who sent stamps, to the loving, Christian-hearted sisters who continue to write, who have helped me in hundreds of ways, I give my heartfelt gratitude and in every possible way I can, will pass their kindness on.



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Terms Used in Crochet

Ch. st., chain stitch, simply a series of loops or stitches each drawn with the hook through the preceding one; s. c., single crochet, having a loop on hook, insert hook in work as indicated, draw loop through thread over, and draw through both loops; d. c., double crochet, thread over hook, insert hook in work, draw loop through, thread over two loops, draw through, thread over two loops; tr. c., treble crochet, thread over hook twice, then work off as in double crochet, there being three groups of two loops to work off instead of two; h. tr., half treble, same as tr. c., only work off two loops, thread over and then through three loops; d. tr., double treble crochet, thread over three times, hook through work, thread over and draw through one loop, giving five on hook, thread over and work off by twos; sl. st., slip stitch, insert hook in work, draw loop through work and loop on hook at the same time; p. picot, a picot is formed on a chain by catching back in the fourth st., or as indicated and working a sl. st. r. st., roll stitch, throw the thread over the needle as many times as indicated, insert hook in the work, thread over, pull through coil or roll, thread over, draw through the one loop on hook. The roll when completed is straight, with a thread the length of roll along its side. The length or size of a roll is regulated by the number of times the thread is thrown over; o., over, thread over hook the number of times indicated; k. st., knot stitch, draw out loop about one quarter inch, catch thread and pull through, then put the hook between the drawn loop and the thread just pulled through, catch the thread, draw through these two stitches to form the knot; blk., block, a st. in each of a given number of sts., preceded and followed by a space; sp., space, a space is formed by making a chain of 3 or 4 sts. and omitting the same number of sts. in preceding row; sk., skip, to miss or omit number of stitches indicated in preceding row; p. c., padding cord; * stars mean that the directions given between them should be repeated as indicated before proceeding.

Terms Used in Knitting

K. knit plain; o. over; o. 2, over twice; n. narrow 2 stitches together; p. purl, meaning an inversion of stitches; sl. slip a stitch; tog. together; st. and b., slip and bind; k. p. knit plain; stars and parenthesis indicate repetition.

Knitted Hood and Sweater Year-old Size

MADE according to directions these garments will be the right size for a year-old child. To make the sweater for a larger child, all that is necessary is to follow the directions in a general way, but knit to the size of a pattern for an older child. Required material—Between three and four skeins of whitesaxony, one half skein pink saxony and one half skein light green saxony. Two pairs needles No. 13 or 14.

Directions for Knitting Hood

The hood is begun in the center of the crown. Cast on 50 stitches. The first seven rows are in Brioche stitch which is made as follows:—

1st row.—Wool over, slip 1, insert needle as though to purl, that is, on side opposite to ordinary stitch, knit two together, and repeat to end of row.

2nd row.—Over, slip 1, as though to purl, knit together the next st. and the thread which lies over it, and repeat to end of row.

Repeat this row six times more. Next seven rows of a fancy stitch made in this way; * k. first 4 sts., p. 1, k. 3, p. 1, k. 3, p. 1, repeat from * ending row with k. 4. This makes 14 rows.

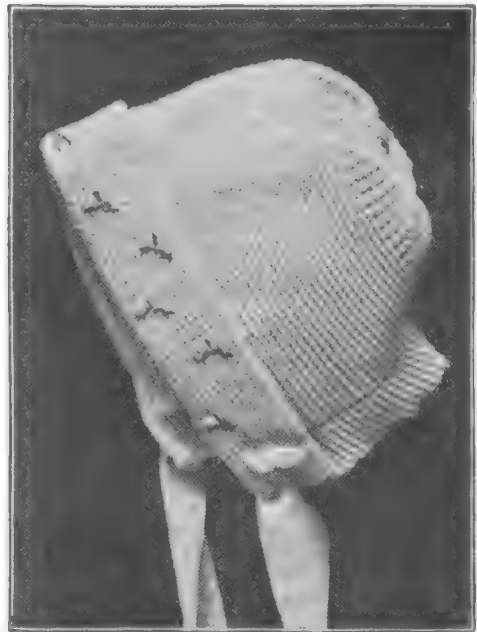
15th row.—K. plain. Cast 10 sts. on end of this row, turn.

16th row.—K. 9, p. 1, k. plain to end, cast on 10 sts., turn.

17th row.—K. 9, p. 1, k. to other purled st., p. 1, k. 9. Repeat this row 30 times.

Purl 3 rows. Knit 12 rows for turn back and bind off.

Sew up the back of the hood from the neck



HOOD TO MATCH SWEATER.

up, draw up the first row leaving a space about the size of a quarter which can be filled in with crochet. Make ch. 4, join, fill with 15 or more double crochet, add a second row and sew in place.

Directions for Sweater

Cast on 110 stitches. Knit first 10 rows plain. 11th row.—K. 14 purl to end of row. 12th row.—Purl to 14th row st., k. 14. 13th row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. to end. 14th row.—K. p. 2 over purled 2, k. 14. 15th row.—Same as 13th row. 16th row.—Same as 14th row. 17th row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. to end of row. 18th row.—P., k. 4, p. 2, k. 14. 19th row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. to end. 20th row.—K. p. 2 over p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 14. 21st row.—Same as 19th row. 22nd row.—Same as 20th row. 23rd row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. to end of row. 24th row.—P., k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 14. 25th row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. to end. 26th row.—K. p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 14. 27th row.—Same as 25th. 28th row.—Same as 26th.

29th row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. to end.

30th row.—P. k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 14.

31st row.—K. 14, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. 4, p. 2, k. to end row.

Make 8 more rows like the 31st row. All knitted plain excepting the purled stitches which form the border around the bottom. Bind off the last 30 sts. on end of work opposite purling for the armhole, knit 1 row from here, to the bottom and back again, then cast on 30 stitches



KNITTED ROSEBUD TRIMMED SWEATER.

and make 70 rows for the back, making the purling across the bottom. Make the second front to correspond with the first.

Sleeves

Cast on 62 stitches, knit 42 rows. Make cuffs of 28 rows Brioche st. the same as used in hood, finish off with 6 rows knitting, bind off and sew up.

Lay fronts and backs together and sew up shoulders, sew in sleeves.

Collar

Cast on 70 sts. for the collar, knit 4 rows, purl 6 rows, knit 12 rows and bind off. Sew to neck. Finish with either a crocheted cord and pink and white balls or ribbon.

High Crocheted Boots

Begin with ch. 11, turn, 1 s. c. in each of 10 sts., ch. 1, turn, 9 more rows of 10 s. c. each, worked through both loops of each stitch.

Now 1 s. c. down side, 2 s. c. in corner st., 1 s. c. in each st. across end, 2 s. c. in corner, 1 s. c. up side, ch. 21 sts., fasten to opposite side, break thread. Fold ch. together and in 11th or center st. of back work 1 s. c., 1 s. c. in each st. all around, join to first s. c. by sl. st., ch. 1. Next row in center st. of toe make 2 s. c., otherwise same as last row. 2 more rows 1 s. c. in each st. Next row sk. a st. on each side of the toe. Next row, sk. st. in center of toe, 1 row 1 s. c. in each st. next 2 rows sk. couple of sts. To draw in heel a little add row of s. c. in each st. and break thread.

Start again in center of back, 1 s. c. in each st. all around, join to first st., one is now beginning to make leg of boot. Make 20 rows, single crochet, working through both loops of each st. and increasing by making 2 s. c. in center st. in back in every third row or as is necessary.

21st row.—1 tr. c. in each st. join, ch. 1, 8 more rows of s. c. and finishing top with picot scallop of 1 s. c., 1 d. c., 1 p., 1 d. c., 1 p., 1 d. c., 1 p., 1 d. c., 1 s. c., repeat. Run ribbons through the treble row of crochet as shown.

To make the little garments very attractive, one can now add a touch of the popular wool embroidery, by scattering tiny rosebuds down the front of the sweater, on the turnback of the hood and on the boots as shown. The directions for the boots as given will fit over a year-old child's shoe.

CROCHETED BOOTS.

Directions for Embroidering Rosebuds

Thread a darning needle with the pink wool and take a lazy daisy stitch about one half inch long. Bring needle out near starting point and take a second stitch a bit longer than the first, add a third the length of the first, add similar stitches on either side of green wool and one straight stitch in the opposite direction to form stem.

A Rosebud Afghan

A beautiful rosebud afghan may be made to complete a child's carriage outfit as follows. Make five or six inch squares in twilight stitch of baby blue saxony and squares of an equal size in single crochet of whitesaxony, by working back and forth and taking up both loops of each stitch, thus making the work solid and also giving a rather star like effect to the stitch. Make a chain one at the end of each row to keep the work even. Embroider the white squares with rosebuds, then join all by alternating the squares. Bind with a satin ribbon or finish with a scallop.

Crocheted Sleeveless Jacket

FOR MISS M. E. STAMM.

Materials required. 4 skeins Germantown 2 skeins saxony for border, 1 medium and 1 fine bone crochet hook.

To make a jacket for a 36- or 38-inch person, begin with ch. 114 stitches. This jacket fits snugly, the center of the back and the fronts

run off to points and half sleeves can be made or not as preferred.

1st row.—2 d. c. in 4th st. from hook, 1 d. c. in each of the next 54 sts., then as the widening is done in the center of the back, work 3 d. c., ch. 2, 3 d. c. in the 55th st., 1 d. c. in each of the next sts., excepting the last, in which work 3 d. c., ch. 3, turn.

2nd row 2 d. c. in 1st working through the back loop only to form a rib, 1 d. c. in each d. c., widen as in first row, by working 3 d. c., ch. 2, 3 d. c. under ch. 2 of preceding row and work 3 d. c. in last st., ch. 3, turn.

Repeat the 2nd row until one has 15 rows, for a sleeveless jacket or 22 rows if half sleeve is desired. Fasten off.

For sleeveless jacket do not break thread, but at end 15th row, turn and work back on 30 stitches, as usual, then ch. 3, turn, work to end again. Repeat making 5 more rows on the 30 stitches. Make 3 d. c. in front edge of each of these rows, but finish with 1 d. c. on opposite end as directed. Break wool. Finish opposite front in the same way.

Now count 30 stitches from the center of the back. Join wool and work 30 d. c. on 30 d. c., increasing in center as usual then 1 d. c. in each d. c. to corresponding stitch of first d. c. ch. 3, turn. Repeat, making 6 more rows in this way.

To join the jacket under the arms, count 30 stitches from the front of one front and 30 stitches from the center of the back, join the remaining 14 or 15 sts. together by single crochet, now s. c. along the ends of the short rows to draw these in a little to form under part armhole. Join opposite side in same way. In jacket with 22 complete rows, join under arms by working s. c. on 23 stitches after counting 30 stitches from center of back and fronts.

Begin border at under arm seam.

Border. Ch. 3, * skip 2 chs., 4 d. c., skip 2 chs., 1 d. c. and repeat from * all around, putting 9 d. c. in center of back and at each corner of front, be careful not to skip any chains, when turning the corners at the neck to prevent puckering. Join.

2nd round.—Ch. 3, * 4 d. c. in center of shell of preceding row, 1 d. c. on d. c., repeat all around and join.

3rd round.—Ch. 3, 5 d. c. in center of shells, 1 d. c. on d. c., edge armholes in the same way.

A picot edge of colored wool or silk can be added to the borders if one fancies.

Crocheted Carriage Robe in Twilight Chain

BY MRS. A. A. WERTMAN.

This robe or afghan is of two colors, the outside which is illustrated being made up of heavy wool crocheted and placed over white saxony knitted lining. Materials, 4 skeins heavy or coarse pink of baby blue wool. Medium size bone crochet hook, 2 skeins white saxony, 1 pair knitting needle, rather coarse so work will be loose.

Outside of Twilight Chain

With color make a rather loose chain, a yard long without stretching, turn. Sk. 7 sts., 1 sl. st. in each of the next 3 sts., ch. 3, sk. 3, 1 sl. st. in each of the next 3 sts. Repeat working in this way to the end of the chain, but finish with a group of 3 sl. sts.

2nd row.—Ch. 4, 3 sl. st. in ch. 3 below. Ch. 3, 3 sl. st. in next ch. 3, repeat to end finishing with 3 sl. sts., turn. Repeat until work is the desired size.

Knitted Lining

Of the white saxony make a lining of the same size of plain knitting. Pin together and working through both edges, finish with a crocheted fringe.

Fringe

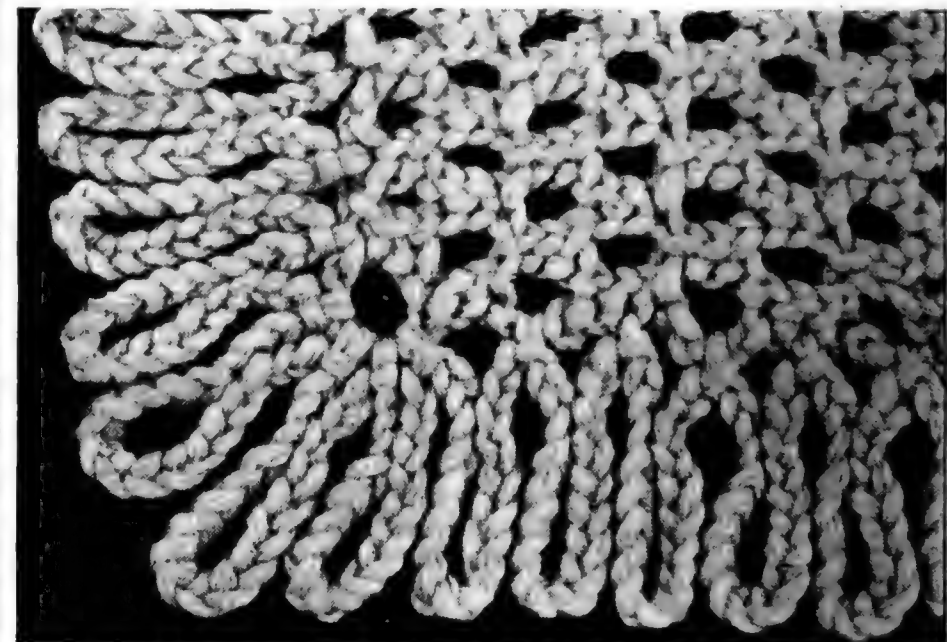
With colored wool, fastened in end of corner row ch. 24, 1 sl. st., in the 19th and 20th chains from hook, ch. 4, 1 sl. st. next to fastened wool. Make 2 more chained loops and sl. st. next each other closely, to fill in and round corner. Next loop sl. st. to end of next row. Repeat this around all four sides.

Crocheted Beading

For Lingerie or Children's Dresses

This pattern is very pretty on children's dresses, run through with black velvet ribbon. Ch. 22, 1 d. c. in 9th st. from hook, ch. 2, skip 2, 1 d. c., ch. 2, skip 2, 1 d. c., repeat making 2 more spaces, ch. 3, turn.

1st row.—2 d. c., in sp., 1 d. c. on double, 3



CROCHETED CARRIAGE ROBE.

sp., 4 d. c., ch. 3, turn. Next 2 rows the same 4th row.—3 d. c., ch. 9, 4 d. c., ch. 3, turn. 5th row.—3 d. c., 1 sp., 4 d. c., 1 sp., 4 d. c., ch. 3, turn.

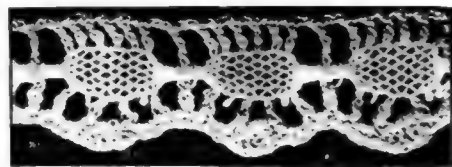
6th row.—7 d. c., 1 sp., 7 d. c., ch. 3, turn. 7th row.—3 d. c., 1 sp., 4 d. c., 1 sp., 4 d. c., ch. 3, turn.

8th row.—3 d. c., ch. 9, 4 d. c., ch. 3, turn. 9th, 10th and 11th rows.—all same as first. Then repeat pattern from 4th row.

Lobster Braid Edge for Curtains

The pattern can be very rapidly made and also makes an effective trimming along the straight edge, make 1 d. c. in each picot of the braid, ch. 2, 1 tr. c. around stem, ch. 2, and doubles as before.

On the opposite to make scallop, 1 d. c. around stem, on each side of the tr. st., ch. 2, 1 d. c., in first picot, * ch. 3, 1 d. c. in third picot, ch. 3, 1 d. c., in fourth picot, ch. 3, 1 d. c.



LOBSTER BRAID EDGE FOR CURTAINS.

c., in last picot, ch. 2, 2 d. c., around stem, 1 on each side of the treble. Repeat from * for length required.

Stocking with Fitted Knee-Cap Designed for Rheumatic Sufferers

BY GEORGIA T. DRENNAN.

For solid comfort in cold weather nothing is better especially for elderly or rheumatic people, than such a stocking or knee-cap as is here shown.

It comes up well over the knee, fits snugly and will stay in place without a garter.

Either Germantown yarn, zephyr, mercerized knitting thread or soft cotton can be used knitting on either coarse or fine needles.

Cast up 100 stitches evenly on 3 steel knitting needles, and knit around plain.

Now k. 5, p. 5 sts. for 47 rounds. This makes the longitudinal ribbing which fits closely about the knee.

48th row or next row.—Knit off the first 25 sts., to begin the gore of the knee-cap.

49th row.—Knit across plain, taking up one st. from the end.

50th row.—Purl and take up one st. from the end.

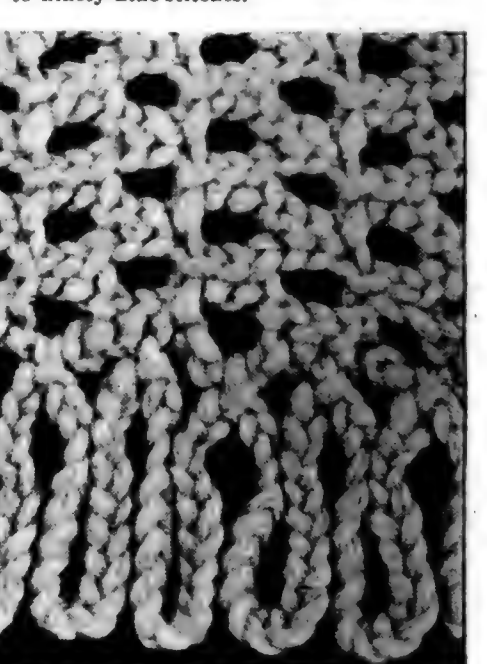
Continue in this way for 5 rows. Then reverse making 5 purled and 5 plain rows alter-



HAND-MADE STOCKING WITH FITTED KNEE-CAP.

nately until the knee-cap is finished. Take up one st. at end of each row whether plain or purled.

When only 40 sts. of the original ribbed portion are left, the upper half of knee cap is completed. Then knit plain and purl as before, but knit 2 sts. together at the end of each row, back and forth, to narrow the knee-cap down to ninety-nine stitches.



Knit plain, purling the center stitch of third needle, to make seam down back of the leg. Widen for the calf and then narrow for the ankle as usual in making stockings.

Knit the Heel

Turn the cap, narrow for the instep, knit the foot and narrow off the toe. Bind off and make end of thread secure on wrong side.



BY KATE V. SAINT MAUR.

Points for Early Hatching

THE problem in the minds of the majority of poultry keepers at the present time is "How can I best secure a goodly number of strong, vigorous chicks from my spring hatches? large, vigorous fellows, free from any taint of disease, that will with good care develop into strong, profitable adults to keep up my stock?"

For there are always a lot of old birds each year who are past their usefulness as egg producers, that must be disposed of. Hence, the necessity of producing a full quota of vigorous chicks each year if the productivity of the flock is to be maintained. The demand for strong chicks of high quality, is constant, and comes from many sources.

First, of course, the owner of his own plant wishes a goodly number for his own use. Secondly, the producer of high quality baby chicks has a large demand for the sale of these youngsters as day-old chicks, for which a very remunerative price is secured. Again, where one has secured a reputation for producing hatchable eggs and husky youngsters, a large quantity of hatching eggs can be sold at a profit during the spring months.

In selecting desirable breeders, both male and female, the first consideration should be that of vigor. The parents themselves should show a bright, prominent eye; a good, deep, wide body; a short, deep head, a good distance between the hock joints, and should be of suitable color pattern, characteristic of the breed represented. Second, the parents should be selected with some knowledge of their ancestry or pedigree.

In the beginning of the breeding work, owing to the lack of accurate records, it will often be impossible to know the exact ancestry, and external appearance will have to count for much. In such cases it may often be desirable to purchase good breeding males from reliable breeders, for which a fair price can well be paid.

A few selected birds, trap nested during the winter, will make possible systematic selection along egg-producing lines. Again, the parent stock should show every indication of health, and the poultryman should know that no disease has ever affected the birds selected to produce hatching eggs. Some diseases may apparently have been cured, but disease leaves the individual in a weakened condition, so that progeny from such individuals show tendencies toward infection. Health, then, should be a fundamental requirement.

Suitable parentage, consisting of carefully selected hens and cockerels, is fundamental. Pullets which are immature and late hatched should never be used for breeding. When pullets are used as breeders, a large percentage of eggs is often found infertile. On account of the small size of the eggs, the chicks at hatching time are correspondingly smaller than chicks otherwise produced. The progeny from small pullet eggs lack vitality throughout their lives, and if the practice is continued, a rapid deterioration in the efficiency of the flock will follow. The yearling hen mated to the vigorous cockerel, produces the best quality chicks.

In the breeding pen, fertility is of primary consideration, and special efforts should be made to attain a high percentage. In this regard, do not mate too many females to one male. With the light, active breeds, such as the Leghorns, one male to twelve or fifteen females seems about the right proportion. With the heavier breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, one male to ten females is as safe a ratio as can be followed. Season also influences the question. The early matings before the normal breeding season has commenced, should contain less females to a male than matings during late March and April.

Next we have to consider the handling of the hatching egg after it is produced, and the following points are of special significance. The eggs should, by all means, be laid in clean nests, for soiled, dirty eggs are bound to carry contamination which may affect the chicks disastrously. Frequent collection of the hatching eggs, especially in winter, when the temperature is very cold, is desirable, thus preventing chilling, and also preventing injury to the eggs. After collecting the eggs they should be carefully graded. Eggs of uniform size, as near as possible, weighing about twenty-four ounces to the dozen, should be used. All exceptionally large eggs or malformed eggs should be sold for eating. Eggs of irregular, rough or thin shells should also be disposed of. Only normal shelled eggs of a uniform color and of an average size should be kept for hatching. They should be kept in a room where the temperature is not over fifty degrees, and never below thirty. Such a temperature retards evaporation and retains the quality of the egg.

A high temperature of seventy or eighty is apt to cause germ development which results in a dead embryo. It is not a good plan to hold hatching eggs any length of time before placing them in an incubator. It has been found, by careful experience, that the hatching power of the egg decreases as the length of the holding time increases. Even in a cool room and carefully turned, hatching eggs will deteriorate, and it can be stated that it is undesirable to keep them more than three weeks under any conditions, and one week is much better. It is a safe practice to place the eggs in such a way that they can occasionally be turned if they are going to be held for three or four days or longer.

Plenty of room is also needed in the breeding pen. Breeding birds should never be crowded. It prevents sufficient exercise and has a tendency to increase disease and parasites. Plenty of exercise should be the rule. This can be best accomplished by feeding considerable grain in deep litter. Lack of exercise tends to the formation of fat, and this is bound to increase fertility.

It is very desirable to construct a number of small houses, especially adapted to the management of the breeding flock, in which special matings can be made of a few selected birds, such flocks being given range during the winter and early spring in order to get them into suitable breeding condition. The feed for the breeding flock is very nearly identical with that required for the ordinary laying hens.

One noticeable exception can be made, and that is that the ration for the breeders should not be forced in any sense of the word. A ten to twenty per cent meat scrap mash is as concentrated as it is safe to go. Green food is necessary, as birds relish it, and seem to increase appetite and vigor. Plenty of feed should be given, but in such a way as to compel exercise and reduce the formation of excessive fat. The birds should be compelled to work for all the grain in dry, deep, clean litter.

The aim in the management of this breeding flock should be, first, large eggs, which are secured only from large, healthy, adult hens, fed a well-balanced ration in sufficient amount. Second, a fair number of eggs, which can be secured from any well-managed flock of healthy birds. Third, strong germs, which are secured by having the birds properly mated and well cared for. Fourth, a heavy albumen dense and free from an

excessive amount of water, means eggs which will hatch livable chicks. These factors are assured in a flock of healthy birds which are not forced excessively for a maximum production.

Where to Put the Incubator

When only one or two incubators are to be run during the season, it is scarcely practicable to build or construct a special incubator cellar for that purpose, therefore the question arises as to what kind of room or place about the premises will be suitable for the operation of the incubator. Preferably they should be placed in the cellar or in a room with north windows instead of south, which is usually more apt to be more uniform in temperature day and night, because the southern windows absorb much heat from the sun during the day and lose this at night. It is also the temperature which should surround the eggs as they are turned and cooled day after day. If the room is too cool, the eggs will become too suddenly cooled and chilled, and if the room is too warm the eggs will not have a chance to become cooled sufficiently in the length of time allowed to remain out of the incubator.

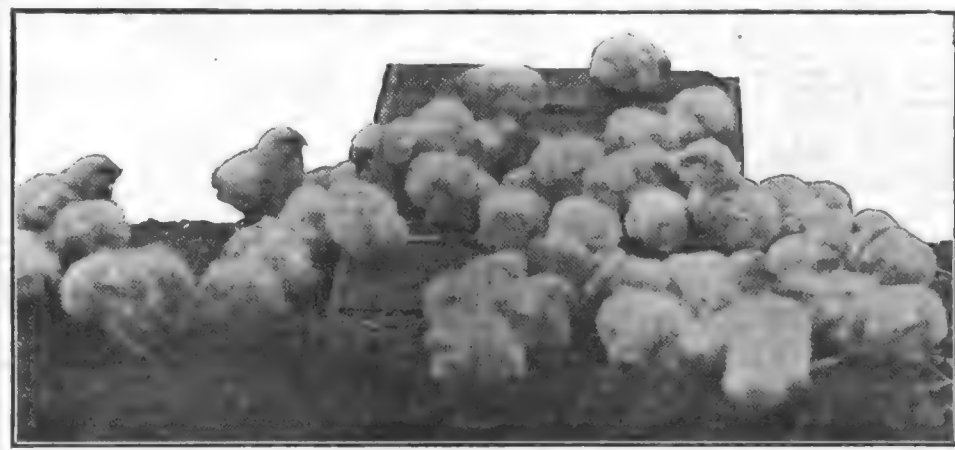
The ventilation of the room is one of the most essential features which should be looked into before the machine is started. There must be a constant supply of fresh air in the incubator room, because the eggs in developing need a constant supply of fresh air. The gases given off during incubation must be removed and supplanted by fresh air.

Every incubator has some arrangement whereby fresh air is admitted to the machine at all times. Also every machine requires the airing or cooling of eggs at regular periods during the hatch. The purpose of this is to bring the eggs into contact with the fresh air. Never allow an incubator room to become stagnant or filled with stale or disagreeable odors. The system of ventilation should be so managed that no drafts of wind blow across the room and strike the machine in operation.

There are several serious effects of drafts. In the first place, drafts interfere with the even burning of the lamp, causing the flame to flicker and even to smother. This not only results in a variation in the temperature of the incubator, but fills the lamp and compartment with soot, taking away from its efficiency. There is also a serious risk of fire resulting from a flame that is kept flickering. Particular attention should be given to this point when there is a prevalence of strong winds out of doors. Avoid opening windows that are directly opposite in the room, particularly if the incubator is in a line between them. It is easy to get fresh air into a room without creating drafts.

Points to Remember in Running a Machine

First, temperature. The best temperature is known to be from one hundred and two to one hundred and three degrees on the fertile egg. A great variation from this either high or low, not only reduces the number of chicks hatched, but reduces the vigor and fertility of those which get out of the shell. A high temperature running continuously throughout the hatch results in an early hatch, and is apt to be accompanied by weak youngsters, while a low temperature results in a prolonged hatch and poor results. An ideal hatch which results is one which, due to uniform temperature, starts on or about the twentieth or



WHITE WYANDOTTE CHICKS.

twenty-first day, and is completely over with in from twelve to twenty-four hours.

A second factor, of equal importance in the management of the incubation, should be the supplying of fresh air. The growing embryo needs a full supply of oxygen, without which the embryo cannot grow normally. This oxygen can best be supplied to the egg by causing fresh, pure air to flow into the machine and into the air chamber. This ventilation, as it is called, must take place continuously, but without any rapid movement which would cause a too rapid evaporation of the egg content.

Another consideration of equal or greater importance is the necessity of maintaining the moisture content to such a point that excessive evaporation will be prevented. If, due to dry atmospheric conditions, evaporation takes place rapidly, much of the contents of the egg, which otherwise would go into the chick, is given off into the air and the result is undersized chicks at hatching time. The big, heavy, fluffy youngsters can only be produced where a fairly high humidity is contained in the egg chamber. This high humidity also results in a better percentage of hatch, due to its effect upon the egg shell in making it thinner and more easily broken at hatching time. It is a good plan to insure this high humidity by sprinkling the eggs on the eighteenth or nineteenth day with warm water before closing the machine.

At hatching time the incubator should be darkened, thus keeping the chicks from tramping one another in an effort to get to the light. The quieter they can be kept, the better. The chicks should be allowed to remain in the machine until they are thoroughly dry, which is from twenty-four to thirty hours after the hatch is complete. These few points in regard to the proper care of the eggs in the incubator are essential.

The great advantage of early hatches is splendidly shown in a report from the New Jersey Experiment Station issued last year. The eggs for the hatch which is quoted were brought for a large poultry farm whose birds have the reputation of being vigorous, and good egg producers. The eggs were produced by yearling hens, and set in a big sectional incubator on January 19th, 1914, and seven hundred chicks hatched out on February 9th. They were placed in a pipe-heated brooder house, and kept there until they were twelve weeks old. Some were lost through crowding, toe picking, and other accidental causes. At from nine to twelve weeks of age the cockerels were sold alive as broilers, the average weight being a little over one pound. The market was average for the season, the price being fifty-eight cents a pound. This resulted in a very attractive return in cash, and shows one of the advantages which may be secured from bringing off considerable number of chicks early

in the spring. Approximately 300 pullets were put on range at twelve weeks of age, or about the first week in May.

The chicks in the brooder were fed the regular N. J. State brooding rations, consisting of dry mash and cracked grains, with bone and skim-milk being fed. These two ingredients are specially mentioned as they seem specially desirable at this early season to induce a rapid growth, for rapid maturity is what we are after. On range they are fed a grain ration of equal parts of wheat and cracked corn and dry mash in large hoppers always before them. The mash contained ten per cent of high grade meat scrap, and ten per cent of dry ground bone. Skim-milk was not fed on range. The first egg was found on the range the 10th of July, just five months from the time of hatching. From this date on the flock as a whole commenced to mature, and on the 29th of July they were placed in their permanent laying quarters and gotten into shape for an early production.

The house provided for them was of the New Jersey Multiple Unit type twenty feet deep by forty feet long. Two hundred birds were selected as being the most uniform in development and of good size and maturity. From the time that these birds were placed in their permanent quarters until the next fall, or until August, 1915, they were never let out of their house, so yards were provided, and all green food, together with all nourishment, was provided in the house.

The birds were fed the standard N. J. State Rations. The dry mash consisting of

Two hundred pounds of wheat bran, two hundred pounds of wheat middlings, one hundred pounds of round oats, one hundred pounds of corn-meal, one hundred pounds of gluten meal, one hundred pounds of ground Alfalfa, two hundred pounds of high grade meat scrap.

Was fed in large hoppers, the birds having access to it at all times. This mash was supplemented by a morning scratch feed consisting of equal parts of wheat and oats, which was fed in deep litter at the rate of one pound to ten birds. Special care was exercised to see that the litter was always in a dry, coarse clean condition. At, or just before noon, a considerable quantity of mangel beets, or at various times sprouted oats, were fed, all being given at a feeding which the birds would eat up in one hour. In the afternoon a night scratch ration was given, consisting of:

Two hundred pounds of cracked corn, one hundred pounds of wheat, one hundred pounds of oats, one hundred pounds of buckwheat.

In addition to these standard grain rations a constant supply of fresh, clean water was kept before them all of the time, and during most of the period sour skim-milk was fed in large pans, all they would drink being given. The milk seemed to be very valuable, and was in part responsible for the excellent showing of the pen.

The flock commenced laying well soon after being placed in permanent quarters, and continued to give a good account of themselves at all times except during their moult, which took place in November, December and January. The number of eggs laid during the year, the per cent production, the value of eggs, cost of food, and resulting profit or loss by months is shown on the accompanying table. It will be seen that the total flock, which averaged for the year 190 birds, laid a grand total of 26,280 eggs, or 138 eggs per bird average for the twelve months period. This means an average per cent produc-

tion for the period of 35. The total value of the eggs produced was \$679.30, the eggs being marketed in most part, wholesale in New York City. The value of the eggs was in all cases figured on wholesale New York quotations for first grade white eggs. The total cost of all food consumed, including the skim-milk, which cost \$9.00, was \$257.53. The skim-milk was figured at the rate of 25 cents for a 40-quart can, which is the creamery price for the product in New Jersey. The profits are shown for each month, and it is interesting to note that during only one month did the flock not pay for its feed. This was during December, or during the height of the moult. The total profit for the year above feed was therefore \$421.83. This means a net profit above feed for each bird of \$2.22.

In determining the net profit from each venture the labor cost and interest charges must of course be deducted. After subtracting these figures the results would then show a net return of about \$1.85 per bird, which is attained through the production of nothing but market eggs. This figure does not include the increased revenue obtained from the sale of the surplus cockerels, as broilers, at a time when very fancy prices were secured, nor does it include increased returns which were secured from the sale of many of the eggs from this flock in the spring for hatching purposes.

Correspondence

Subscribers are entitled to advice of our Poultry Editor, free, through the columns of this department. Address Poultry Editor, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine. BE SURE to give your full name and address, otherwise your letter will receive no attention.

B. B.—Better write to Mr. H. J. Goette, St. Paul, Minnesota, enclosing a stamp, and asking the address of members of the club in your vicinity.

A. O.—You don't say how old the hens are, or how you feed, so it is difficult to tell what has caused the trouble, which appears to be liver complaint. If you have been feeding much corn, reduce the quantity. Give them mash in the morning, made of two parts finely chopped clover or alfalfa hay which has been steamed for several hours, or ground oats and wheat. Don't give them more than they will eat up clean in ten minutes. At night scatter mixed grain, oats, kafir corn and wheat in deep litter, so they will have to scratch for every kernel. Add one teaspoonful of sulphate of magnesia to every pint of drinking water, one day a week until they have had three doses.

M. C. H.—I really can't guess what the trouble is with your birds, especially as you say neighbors are losing chickens in the same way. The only suggestion I can offer is that the birds get into fields where there is ripening broom grass or milo maize, and eat unthreshed grain. I have been told by several correspondents that the hulls of the new milo maize grain seems to irritate the intestines and cause

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23.)

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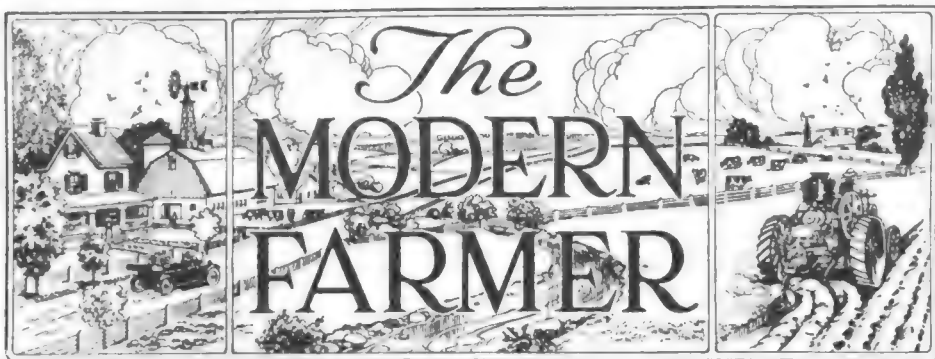
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New and Unusual in Fruits and Flowers

It is the unusual that always attracts. We pass by "old-fashioned" plants without giving them a moment's thought, but the instant we see some new or unusual one we stop and begin to wonder what it is. Plant breeders, horticulturists and seedsmen are continually at work upon the improvement of plants, hence something new or improved is likely to appear at any time.

How New Plants are Created

Not many years ago people regarded with suspicion the man who dared assert that an old plant could be improved or a new one created, but today we have so many visible evidences of this fact that it is no longer occasion for doubt. Every new creation in plant life makes us pause and wonder how it all came about. This is how it happens: There are two ways in which it may be done,—by crossing and by selection.

Crossing

Two plants are selected that have desirable qualities. Let us suppose that one has size and the other color, for example. It is desired to get the size of the first combined with the color of the second. These two plants are crossed, that is, the pollen from one is applied to the pistil of the other. This is a process that requires great skill and care, but the result is seed. These seeds are sown the next year. Many plants are produced; some resemble one parent, some the other; perhaps one or two resemble both parents. Size and color have been combined. These are allowed to go to seed and the seeds planted the second year. Some of these plants revert—that is they turn back—so that they resemble the original parents, but many "come true." By continuing this process of selection for six or seven years these seeds always "come true" and are ready to be placed on the market.

Improvement by Selection

In every field or garden can be found some plants better than the rest. These are chosen as parent stock. By planting their seeds year after year, saving only the seeds from the best plants, the original stock can be greatly improved. It takes six or seven years, often much longer, to produce substantial improvement by this method.

Sports

It sometimes happens that plants change character so greatly as to be wholly unlike the parent stock. Everybody is familiar with the striped or white corn-stalks. These are called "sports." If "sports" are taken as parent stock and selections carefully made for several years new varieties are produced.

The polled-Durham cattle were produced in this way. A man living in the state of Minnesota had a Durham cow with horns that gave birth to twin calves, both heifers. Neither of them developed horns. Another farmer in Ohio had a young Durham bull without horns. These animals were mated and the polled-Durham breed of cattle is the result. Butank produced his spineless cactus and his white blackberry in exactly the same way.

Where to Get New or Improved Plants

As soon as a plant is improved it is usually sold to seedsmen and dealers in nursery stock from which to secure new creations. One should study the advertisements in farm papers if he wishes to secure new and unusual varieties. Some of them are advertised directly but the majority of them are to be found listed in the pages of the catalogues issued by the seed and nursery houses. If you fail to find mention of new creations in their advertisements, the next step is to send for their catalogues and study these pages. The reliable dealer—and most seedsmen and nurserymen are reliable—can be trusted to give an accurate description of the plant and fairly set forth its special claim to your attention in his advertisement or in the pages of his regular catalogue.

Cheaper Horse Feeding

While it is a mistake to make any very sudden change in the ration of the work horse, it can be done gradually without danger. Many get into the habit of routine of giving horses the same ration fed by their fathers and grandfathers for the reason that they have found that diet to be satisfactory, so far as the horse is concerned; but a little figuring may show that the old ration is not now economical.

Whole oats cannot be excelled perhaps as an all-round horse feed but we find that it is being wastefully used in the winter season as is hay. When horses are working hard the oat ration, together with a small quantity of wheat bran at each feed gives excellent results, but when horses are idle or doing light work in winter it is possible to reduce the expensive feed yet maintain the animals in good condition. Oat straw may well take the place of the expensive hay, if some bright corn fodder can be added. Old, weathered corn fodder or corn fodder that is moldy is absolutely unfit as feed for horses and often proves deadly. In very cold weather the oats may be withheld altogether and ear corn with oat straw and a little hay or fodder substituted. If roots, such as carrots, parsnips or rutabagas can be supplied as an adjunct feed, the horses will show benefit in the condition of their coats.

But what we particularly wish to recommend here is that "blackstrap," New Orleans or cane sugar molasses, should be considered as a horse feed whenever it can be bought at a reasonable figure. It is very readily digested, does not cause colic or scours and quickly plumps a thin, harness-galled work horse. A quart of molasses, mixed with three quarts of hot water and then stirred thoroughly with corn meal, wheat bran and cut hay, or cut oat straw, fed night and morning, will work wonders in a thin horse. It may be found necessary to starve the horse at first to take the molasses feed but he will soon take it with relish and show improvement. When such a ration is fed night and morning to a hard-

worked horse it is usual to feed whole oats at noon and long hay at night. The idle work horse need scarcely have any grain if fed molasses, cut hay and bright fodder. Sound corn silage may also be safely fed in small quantities to the idle horse in winter, but not in combination with molasses. Corn and Alfalfa hay make a balanced ration but are expensive at present as are most of the usual grain feeds, but molasses and straw should help to cheapen the ration and yet give good results.

Economy in Feeding

With wheat nearing the \$2.00 mark, corn at \$1.00, and other grains in proportion, one naturally finds that mill feed also has soared in price. Stockmen consequently have been at their wits' end to figure how to make ends meet in turning feed into marketable produce such as meat, milk, cream and butter. One result of the perplexing problem has been the flooding of the late fall and early winter markets with "she stuff" of indifferent quality.

Dairymen, trying to economize, have marketed every heifer and cow that failed to pay her board and return a fair profit in produce. Such cattle have sold around three or four cents a pound and averaging not much in excess of 800 pounds per head have failed to pay the cost of their production. Still it has been good policy to sell them. If retained, they would have "eaten their heads off" at the present price of feed and the heifer calves they might have produced would not now be worth raising, while veal calves just now is not very profitable so far as dairy cattle are concerned. Calves also have gone to market in great numbers and not in the best of condition, while light pigs, around 100 to 125 pounds, have also glutted the market.

The high price of corn has been a chief factor in forcing unfinished hogs into the market, while other causes have been fear of cholera and, in some districts the fact that late corn was caught by an early frost and ruined for feeding purposes. It remains as a certainty that dollar corn cannot be profitably fed to heavy hogs and those too are being marketed as quickly as possible.

The high price of feed will more quickly than any other influence teach farmers who in the past have been indifferent the need of certain sensible changes in the business management of the farm.

Here are some of the things that they must recognize and put into practice if they are to succeed:

1. The cheapest made gains in animals for marketing are the growth gains while the animal is young. Recognizing this fact, everything possible should be done to induce rapid growth or development in colts, calves, pigs and lambs. Too often these youngsters are stunted by spare feeding and having to fight flies on bare, unshaded pastures where drinking water is inadequate. The stunted heifer never proves profitable. Forced feeding later in life, to make up for lost opportunity is expensive and profitless. All stunted young animals should be got rid of as soon as possible.

2. The most profitable young animal is the one that is out of a profitable dam and pure bred sire from profitable stock. If a man is going to make veal calves his specialty, he should use a sire that will beget calves that are large at birth and possessed of the ability to lay on calf flesh quickly. Such calves only come from large, thrifty cows. It does not pay to rear little calves from small dairy cows. Nor does it pay to raise stock for market from scrub sows, ewes or mares.

It is not a difficult or very expensive matter to substitute fast developing hogs for the runs and razor-backs too commonly owned in many districts. From such stocks spring pigs may be made to weigh several hundred pounds by November and this quickly grown pork is profitable. The winter feeding of runs that only weigh 75 to 100 pounds in late fall is a losing proposition. So, too, the colt from the right sort of sire and dam will have grown fast while suckling and by the time it is 2 months old should weigh from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. There is an appreciable market for such colts.

3. The foolish and wasteful practice of boarding robber cows should be abandoned everywhere and heifer calves from such cows had better be knocked in the head at birth than raised for dairy purposes. It only pays to keep and raise the heifer calf of a cow that averages at least one pound of butter fat a day throughout her lactation period. The one-pound-of-butter-fat-a-day cow is now being sought after by every sensible dairyman and a herd of such cows never can come from scrub cows and a scrub bull.

More than ever before it is necessary to breed and feed animals that are of the best possible kind and family for production. If that policy is not followed feeding will be done at a loss wherever attempted.

A Critical Time for Ewes

Success at lambing time is very largely dependent upon the proper management of ewes in winter and especially during January and February when snow is likely to be deep and the temperature low. There are two fundamental facts to be remembered in the successful management of the pregnant ewe, viz.:

1. Exercise and 2. Activity of the bowels. Ewes of the mutton breeds fatten readily, laying on much inside fat and becoming sluggish and constipated. Lack of exercise helps to intensify the condition and errors in feeding complete the mischief. To enforce exercise it is good policy to spread the hay for the ewes over the surface of a big field at a distance from the stables and make the ewes walk there and back daily. If the snow is deep a home-made snow plow will quickly open up the narrow path needed by the sheep. Some of the most successful shepherms make their ewes walk a mile to get their hay and then scatter over a large field while feeding and walk home a mile for shelter. But exercise alone will not suffice. Thousands of ewes are killed each winter by feeding them nothing but coarse dry, woody swale or Timothy hay, threshed clover hay, or other coarse, bulky forage. It is imperative that the pregnant ewe should be allowed good clover or Alfalfa hay and in addition two pounds of roots or sound corn silage daily to regulate the bowels. It also is customary to feed a small quantity of whole oats and wheat bran and to allow some shelled corn in very cold weather, but the most important

matter is to enforce exercise and keep the bowels active.

If the paunch of the ewe is kept distended with the objectionable roughage we have mentioned, the liver becomes overtaxed and diseased, partial paralysis of the muscles of the stomach sets in and chronic constipation results with injurious pressure upon the womb. If the ewe does not die in this condition it is certain that she will have difficulty in lambing, dead or puny lambs or lack of milk. These troubles are incurable but easily prevented as we have shown.

The Questions and Answers constitute one of the most valuable features of this department and we urge our farmer subscribers to read all that carefully each month, as you will find that they contain much useful information and advice on practical problems that are troubling you as well as those who have asked the questions. Cut them out and paste them into a scrapbook for future reference. This will save you the trouble of writing us and will avoid delay in getting your answer when you need advice on these same matters. We are glad to receive inquiries from our subscribers and to advise them on all matters pertaining to farming.

Questions and Answers

BARLEY AND CLOVER.—I am much interested in the combination of barley and clover crops. Please tell me how to prepare the soil, how much seed to the acre, at what time to plant and when to harvest; also what and how is the best use to be made of barley as feed?

B. A., Dexter, Ind.
A.—Prepare the land as for corn and sow one and one half to two bushels of barley to the acre. The land must be clean, rich and well drained. A warm friable loam is best and as a field crop. What kind of seed to use is best and as a field crop. Barley hay is the staple horse feed in some Pacific coast states. Seed when the weather is warm just after oat seeding—two pounds of red medium clover with the barley to be used as fall pasture for stock, and plow under as green manure.

RAISING SUNFLOWERS.—I was much interested in the article on the "Cultivation of the Sunflower" in November COMFORT. Can you tell me where I can get a book on the raising of sunflowers, and where I can get sunflower seed suitable to grow in this (Wisconsin) climate? I presume an early variety would be required for this locality. Will they do well on new land with light sandy soil? I have ten acres I can plant to sunflowers next spring, if advisable.

D. S., Stanley, Wis.
A.—The best bulletin on sunflower cultivation is by Dr. H. W. Wiley, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is entitled "The Sunflower, Its Cultivation, Composition and Uses." It may be had free by making application to your senator or representative in Congress, now in session at Washington, D. C. Write him at once and he will see that you get it. According to this bulletin sunflowers do best on a rich loam soil and require about the same kind of fertility and cultivation as does corn. Search the catalogs of the leading seed houses for sunflower seed advertisements. Also write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and to Agricultural Experiment Station in your own state for further advice regarding seed.

SUNFLOWERS AS A CROP.—Please tell me about raising sunflowers as a field crop. What kind of soil do best in Montana? When and how to plant, distance between rows, where to get the right seed, the kind of seeds to be used, and where could I sell my crop are questions I would like answered, as I want to plant fifteen acres to sunflowers next spring if it would be a profitable crop.

Mrs. J. D., Lewistown, Mont.
A.—See answer to D. S., above. The Russian variety is considered the best. Plant and cultivate in drills, the same as for corn. Plant early in spring as soon as the ground can be worked. St. Louis is one of the leading markets for this seed. Write to your State (Montana) Experiment Station for special information and advice regarding success of sunflowers as a field crop in your locality. We advise our readers living in districts where sunflowers are not cultivated as a field crop, to ascertain whether this crop would succeed in their localities before venturing on any extensive planting. This advice applies equally to any untried crop.

WHAT ABOUT SUNFLOWERS.—I read your interesting article on "Raising Sunflowers" and I want more information on the subject. Please tell when to plant, what kind of seed and how many pounds to the acre. Where is the seed to be obtained, and where can the crop be sold?

MARGARET E. K., Toronto, Kans.
A.—Sunflower seeds are planted in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked, just before corn planting time from four to six inches apart, being used, according to size of seed. There are three principal varieties,—the common, the black giant and the mammoth Russian. The Russian is preferred. See answers to D. S. and Mrs. J. D., above.

BRINE FOR HAMS AND BACON.—Please tell me how to make a brine for hams and bacon. One of the "Sisters" told me the recipe had been published in COMFORT, but I missed it.

Mrs. H. T., Sonoma City, Cal.
A.—See article entitled "Pickled Pork," page 10, December number of COMFORT'S Modern Farmer.

SALTING PORK.—I have a large hog to be killed and salted for winter use. Please tell just how to do it and the proportion of salt to use per weight of meat.

LEONA P., Baldwin, La.
A.—Your question is also answered in article referred to above. See December number.

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January

Uncle Charlie's Home Fund

START the new year right by presenting a brick to the birthday fund to provide Uncle Charlie a home.

Uncle Charlie reports an increase of \$51.00, bringing the total received prior to December first up to \$288.00 contributed by 382 members of the great Comfort family numbering millions that have been benefited and inspired by his humanizing and Christianizing work.

The movement to raise this fund was started by our readers through their letters to the "Sisters' Corner." At first I was reluctant to print these appeals for fear the results might disappoint the expectations of the promoters of the project, for the masses are seldom loyal and grateful to the benefactors to the extent of regarding them in any substantial form.

But now that it has been undertaken and publicly announced, Uncle Charlie, who has sacrificed so much for others, should not be subjected to the humiliation of its turning out a failure. The responsibility rests on his friends, those of whom have been profuse in their thousands of expressions of love and admiration, to write him something more substantial and convincing than mere lip service. If each would give according to his or her means, be it ever so little, the sum total would attain an magnitude that would honor him and reflect credit on them.

He does not desire a contribution from anyone that does not wish to help. But if each acts on the theory that his mite is not needed and will

not be missed the entire project to provide a home for Uncle Charlie will result in ignominious failure. He is in the hands of his friends.

The third day of February it will be twenty years since Uncle Charlie suffered the affliction that has made him a helpless, bedridden shut-in. I hope the advent of that anniversary will see his benefit fund assume respectable proportions.

Again let me remind you how you can help:

1. By cash donations.
2. By purchasing Uncle Charlie's books (see advertisement).
3. Those who cannot spare the money for a cash donation or for purchase of his books can contribute by getting subscriptions to COMFORT in aid of the "Uncle Charlie Benefit Fund" and instead of taking the club premium or cash commission themselves direct that it be credited to the fund. In such cases I will pay over to Uncle Charlie one half of the subscription price of all subscriptions sent for this purpose. The regular cash commission on COMFORT subscriptions is 40 per cent, but for Uncle Charlie's Benefit Fund I will allow 50 per cent. Another way to help him and benefit yourself is to get up a subscription club and take one of his books as your premium.

In one or other of these ways every COMFORT reader who wishes to do so can help swell the fund for Uncle Charlie which has my hearty approval and will have my assistance within the limits of propriety.

W. H. GANNETT, Publisher of COMFORT.

Comfort's League of Cousins

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

most men we have in the land, not pap hunting lawyer politicians, but scientists, savants, and experts, and we have hundreds of them. Let these advise the Minister of Welfare and Congress as to what steps shall be taken to promote the welfare of our citizens, to raise living and thinking to higher standards and inaugurate an era of justice and real prosperity that would automatically abolish poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, drunkenness, vice, crime, saloons and brothels, hyphenated citizens and soreheads and anarchists, and give us a country full of loyal, happy, intelligent people, ready to fight for right, righteousness, democracy and freedom not only in this land, but in any other land where humanity might call for assistance—and real genuine dyed-in-the-wool Americanism might be needed. Now get together, stick together and pull together. Read, study, discuss, fraternize and organize. The best "ism" and greatest need of the country right now is Americanism. Make that word your rallying cry and the basis of all your ideals. Do that and you will have started the New Year right. Do that and 1917 will mark a new epoch in the upward and onward march of a nation which should be first in all noble projects and would be first if you'd only highly resolve to make it so.

Don't forget that Uncle Charlie's four wonderful books may still be had. Start in at once to obtain them—they cost you no money, only a very little time and effort—and keep at it until you have the entire set. The book of Poems is beautifully bound in ribbed silk stiff covers; the Story Book is bound in two styles, the one in ribbed silk stiff covers like the Poems, the other in heavy paper covers and the Picture Book in handsome stiff covers. Poems or the Story Book in ribbed silk stiff covers, either one for a club of four subscriptions; the Song Book or the Picture Book in handsome paper covers for a club of only two subscriptions. These four books are a library of endless joy and merriment, the best medicine to drive away the blues and the best gifts in the world.

My picture book, too, has started a deluge of inquiries: Is Billy the Goat my daughter, is Maria her Ma? Is there an Aunt Charlie? Is the big boy in the picture book my only baby? I have had a little leader specially printed answering all these questions fully, and those who are interested will find the same in every copy of the four Uncle Charlie Books sent out this season.

Now for the letters.

DUDLEY, IDAHO.

DEAR UNCLE CHARLIE:

I am so far away that some of you may think that I am almost out of the United States, but you may locate me way up in northern Idaho, along the Coeur d'Alene river valley. My home is in the valley just below the mouth of Fourth of July Creek canyon. This creek was named in 1801. A detachment of soldiers were on their way into the Coeur d'Alene country to fight the Indians and they spent July Fourth along the headwaters of this creek and named it Fourth of July Creek. They blazed a large white pine tree and carved the date on it. These figures are still plain and may easily be read.

Through this canyon and across my ranch runs the only cross country road to be found through the mountains of northern Idaho. This wagon road connects the Pacific northwest country with the states to the eastward, and naturally there is a great deal of travel this way. Last year because of the Panama Pacific Exposition and because the war in Europe forced most of our rich people to spend their money at home there was a great deal more automobile travel through here than there ever was in a single year before.

We see people of most all classes and conditions, from the aristocrat to the homeless, drifting American workmen.

On Jan. 1st, 1916, state-wide prohibition laws went into effect in Idaho and Washington. The liquor interests will be scheming to get a chance to have these states voted wet again as soon as they can get enough petitioners to have the question brought up to be voted on again. I will watch the day, and try to hasten it too, when we will have Nation-wide prohibition.

You wanted to know what we were doing to make this old world a better place in which to live. I am using my vote, my influence, as well as some of my money to the end that the cause of righteousness, liberty and justice may triumph, and that we may learn to live in the relationship toward each other in which God intended we should live. (God bless you for that Earl. Wish there were more like you.—Uncle Charlie.)

As my letter is quite long I must close. Shall be glad to hear from some of the cousins. With love to all,

EARL J. BRYNE, (League No. 40,001.)

Earl J. Bryne's League number is 40,001. Earl joined us in February of last year. Several thousand have joined the League since then, and if soon have fifty thousand. Quite an army, don't you think? I know just where you are located Earl, and could almost walk to the spot blindfolded. It's an ill wind that blows no one any good and the war by keeping people at home has made vast numbers who know no more of their country than a blind pig knows of heaven, acquainted with the many wonders of the great land they live in. I thank God that before I was cut down I had a chance to see and know Uncle Sam's domain thoroughly and completely. It is an open book to me. Those who live in this country and who have never been out of the little valley in which they have been reared have my sincerest sympathy. Before long we shall have universal military service. We've got to come to it whether we like it or not. There will be an awful howl go up when that day arrives. I suggest however, if Uncle Sam wants recruits for his armies, every year he should give a quarter of a million of the brightest of his boys an excursion trip that would take in all the scenic wonders of this wonderful land. Let the Eastern boys go West, let the Western boys come East. Let them see Niagara, Plymouth Rock, Jamestown, St. Augustine, Washington, the Yellowstone National Park, Glacier Park, Puget Sound and its big towering mountain sentinels, the Rockies, the Sierras, the Yosemite and the big trees, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the scenic beauties of Colorado and the great lakes. Let

them see it all. Make it a part of their training and education. Do that and we shall have no more German-Americans, Irish-Americans, British-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans, Italian-Americans or any other of the hyphenated breed. We should have genuine, dyed-in-the-wool, hundred per cent Americans, loving their country and glorying in it. Before we ask people to fight, let them see what they are fighting for. There would be no political bums in Congress if the young men and women of our nation had the proper education. The way to get an education is not to stick your nose in a book, but to go and see the things the book tells you about. That kind of an education might be costly but it wouldn't be one fifth as costly as our present system which teaches nothing or next to nothing, and does not even succeed in giving a boy the faintest idea of the grandeur and glory of the country he lives in or make him even attached or devoted to his motherland. The great trouble in this world is that few people have that wonderful gift, imagination. Without imagination they can only grasp what they can see, and like your Missourian they won't believe anything until they see it. They are like the farmer who went to the circus. After staring at the giraffe for half an hour, he came to the conclusion that "There ain't no such animal." Most people spend their lives gazing at a clapboard house that looks like a dry-goods box with the plp, plentifully sprinkled with tomato cans and broken bottles, then when you picture to them a continent three thousand miles broad, a mountain peak covered with eternal snow, and a canyon thousands of feet deep and ten miles broad, they look you in the eye and grunt: "There ain't no such animal!" What is the result? These people do not believe in protecting our shores for most of them don't believe we've got any. They have no patriotism, no nationalism, no pride of race, no soul. They have stuck their heads in the sand and are dying of dry rot. If you tried to pull them out of the rut if they didn't bite your hand for attempting the job, they would fall to pieces as you yanked them out. Incidentally they will tell you that books are "pizen" and reading an invention of the devil. The cure for these people is a peep at their own country. If they tell you that it's Rockefeller's country and not theirs, tell them if that is so, Rockefeller showed good sense in swiping it, while they showed stupidity in letting him do it. A country will always belong to the other fellow when the majority of people prefer ignorance to knowledge, sloth to action and stick like prairie dogs in miserable holes as did their cave-dwelling ancestors tens of thousands of years ago. Well we can't do much with the grown ups, but I do hope that Uncle Sam will consider my suggestion and make a knowledge of this country a part of the education of the brightest youth of our land. Please note the soldiers had to go into this portion of Idaho and fight the Indians and make the country safe for settlers to work and live in. This was another disgraceful exhibition of militarism and I trust all the peace-at-any-price fanatics will at once gather at their locals and hold meetings of protest. People who do not believe in armies or navies or what they ignorantly and foolishly call militarism, but which is only plain common-sense protection to life and property, have no right to take advantage of the militarism that made the West habitable and secure. By the way, if it were not for this awful militarism as they call it the whole bunch of us would be over in Europe right now, eating wind pies and fried dog shadows, or dying in the trenches for Kings, Kaisers, Czars and Emperors, etc. Earl, I'd get out of that canyon if I were you. It must be awful to live in a country that has been polluted by the presence of those dreadful militarist soldiers, so much nicer, better and healthier to be killed by Indians than to have the protection of "militarism."

4703-25-07 N. W., SEATTLE, WASH.

DEAR UNCLE CHARLIE:

I am a girl of thirteen and have tried my skill in writing the composition which I send you. I would like to know if it is suitable for my age.

I am in the seventh grade.

Yours truly,

ROSE SPRINTLES.

The Falling Rose Petals

BY ROSE SPRINTLES

It is spring, the birdies sing,
And the flowers sweetly bloom;
Among the flowers of the spring,
The sweet scented roses are the best of all;
They are falling on the moss covered ground,
Many little hands are held out to greet them,
Many fair faces come to scent them,
Many little feet tread under its bushes,
At last! when the summer is ore the sweet scented blossoms fall,
They cover old mother earth with the fragrance of sweet blossoms.

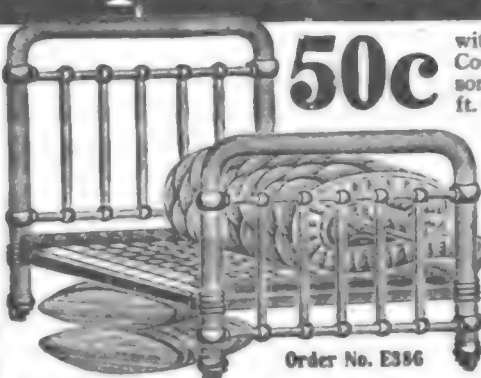
Rose, that is some address of yours. It looks like a section of an astronomical calculation. I should think if you took all those numbers and shook them up twice you'd know how many old mauls there were on Mars and also exactly when Haley's comet was going to put in its next appearance. Your poetry contribution Rose, has been read with a great deal of interest. Being a Rose yourself, you naturally would write about roses. Billy the Goat says he belongs to the rose family, because he went to bed yesterday and later on arose. Though your poetry has reason, it is sadly lacking in rhyme. Now why didn't you write your first four lines something like this:

It is spring, the birdies sing,
And the flowers sweetly bloom,
The butterfly is on the wing,
And roses burst their wint'ry tomb.

If I had been you I think I would have had it go something like this:

It is spring, the birdies sing,
The skelter is sharpening up his sting,
The high cost of living makes money take wing,
And sulphur and laser are now the thing,
Last year's straw hat from the attic we bring,
And swat the flies as they start to cling,
To baby's bald head, bling, bling, bling.

Just to Prove that "Spear charges Less"



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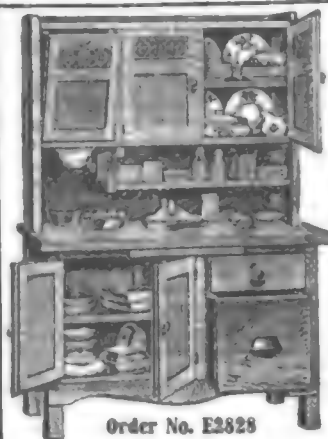
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If your satisfaction is not complete you can return the outfit after a month's trial. Your first payment and all freight charges will be refunded. Order No. E386. Terms: 50c cash with order, balance 50c per month. Total price **\$11.95**



Order No. E2828

Try This Kitchen Cabinet 30 Days

50c Monthly

This is an ideal value in a fine, low-priced kitchen cabinet. Is made of select solid oak finished golden. Material and workmanship guaranteed. The hardwood base top measures 41 x 36 inches. Has 4 pound capacity floor bin with after, roomy china closet and plenty of drawer and storage space. Cupboard doors are fitted with attractive art glass, and all the trimmings are of the neatest design. This cabinet will give the utmost of satisfaction, and will be shipped on 30 days' trial. Return it at our expense if not satisfactory and your money will be refunded.

Order No. E2828. Terms, 50c cash with order balance 50c monthly. Price **\$11.95**

Send for My New FREE Book Today

You should have my fine, big, complete catalog of everything for the home. It shows a bargain after bargain. Every article is illustrated (many in beautiful colors) and fully described as to construction, materials and finish down to the smallest detail. It will introduce you to



A Thousand Bargains

in Everything for the Home. Furniture, Carpets, Portieres, Rugs, Clocks, Stoves, Dishes, Go-Carts, Guns, Linoleum, Silverware, Lace Curtains, Bedding, Springs, Mattresses, Sewing Machines, Washing Machines, Ranges.

Open Account Easy Terms To All

I will open your charge account as soon as I have your name and address. I give the longest time to pay and guarantee fair, square and liberal treatment. Everything I sell is sent on

30 Days' Home Trial

and use. There are no strings to this offer. If your satisfaction is not complete we want you to return the goods; we will refund your money.

Nathaniel Spear, Pres.

Spear & Company

Dept. E Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I Will Trust You Gladly" Spear, of Pittsburgh



SPEAR & CO., Dept. E Pittsburgh, Pa.

I would like to know all about the Spear Open Account, Easy Payment Plan for home furnishing. Please send me, free, your complete Bargain Catalog with Prices, Terms and Information, without the slightest obligation on my part.

Name _____

Town _____

State _____

You being a poetess Rose, or a potteress, would naturally scorn to write jingle of this flippant character. There is one line in your poetry Rose that has got me quite excited. You say "When the summer is ore." Now Rose what is a summer? I've heard of a consumer, but I've never seen a summer. I used to be a consumer and so did the Goat and Maria, but when steak got to thirty dollars a pint and eggs a thousand bucks apiece we tightened up our belts and quit eating. We are saving up to buy a potato. We've got fifty-seven dollars so far. Perhaps when we get another fifty dollars we may be able to buy half a one. Billy and Pete, our two canaries, are looking worried. Well, they may. We are thinking of converting them into song bird hash. The Goat thinks you mean summer instead of summer, Rose. I, however, am not so sure of that, as the summer could not be ore. The dictionary says that ore is a natural substance, part of a rock containing metal. Now I don't think you would be mean enough to convert our beautiful summers into a bunch of dilapidated old rocks. That would be dreadful. I think you meant o'er, which is an abbreviation for over, instead of ore.

Many little hands are held out to greet them,
Many fair faces come to scent them.

I think I would have written those lines thus:
Many little hands are held out to greet them,
And as living's so high the kids start to eat them.

There is more truth than poetry in that, and after all truth is more important than poetry or poetry either. Your last two lines in which you attempt to rhyme fall with blossoms is ex-cruciating. I would have written it thus:

At last the sweet scented blossoms fall,
Covering the earth with a fragrant pall.
Now dear I'll quit this critical prattle,
And say adieu to fair Rose of Seattle.

WHISTLER, ALA.

DEAR UNCLE CHARLIE:

Will you please tell me through the columns of your paper the "charpent", name of a medicine you said was useful in ejecting gas from the stomach. Do you know of a good remedy for indigestion? Sister has it very bad. She has tried doctors but they do her no good. Sister does not digest anything. She has to try anything anyone tells her. (God help her if she does.—Uncle Charlie.)

I am a subscriber to COMFORT and enjoy reading your interesting letters. Trusting you will advise me.

Your friend,

LULA E. ECKERT.

As so many people suffer from stomach trouble, Lula, I will answer your letter through the

FREE Fine Tone
\$20 UKULELE MANDOLIN, VIOLIN, GUITAR OR CORNET
We have a wonderful new system of teaching music by mail. To first pupils in each locality, we'll give a \$20 superb Ukulele, Mandolin, Ukulele, Guitar or Cornet absolutely free. Very small charge for lessons only expense. We guarantee to make you a player or no charge. Complete outfit free. Write at once—no obligation.
SLINGERLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC, Dept. 78, Chicago, Ill.

columns of COMFORT, then perhaps thousands may benefit from what I have to say instead of ore. Most stomach trouble is caused by the vile habit so many people have of bolting their food, as though they were animals instead of humans. People still think their teeth are in their stomachs, instead of their mouths. No food should go into the stomach until it has been reduced to a pulp. About seventy-five per cent of the meat in this country is wretched stuff, tough, indigestible, and as a rule badly cooked. When people start bolting that kind of stuff there is bound to be trouble. Don't swallow the fiber of anything if you have a troublesome stomach. Chew your food thoroughly, and if you find fibrous matter remains that will not be reduced to a pulp, just place your fork to your lips and remove it. This can be done without violation of table manners. We don't swallow fish bones and cherry stones, why then swallow meat fiber? It is a poor stomach indeed that cannot digest food that has been thoroughly masticated. Every morning of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.)

30 DAYS FREE TRIAL

Total cost only **\$7.50** by our 7 MONTHS TRIAL Plan

to prove to you that this magnificent Royal has the sweetest, purest, loudest and clearest tones—
to prove to you that it is as large and handsome as the trust machines that sell at \$25.00—
to prove to you that it has the strongest motor, the best reproducer and tone arm and the most ingenious devices to start, stop and control the music.
Shipped with a supply of 10-inch double disc records of your selection, so you can enjoy the finest entertainments for one whole month. Return the outfit AT OUR EXPENSE if for any reason you do not wish to keep it. Drop a postal for our big list of uncollected testimonials. They are free.

S. H. DAVIS, 82-7 61st May St., CHICAGO

10 Cents a Day Pays for This Cornet

An astounding offer! Only 10c a day have this superb Triple Silver Plated Lyric Cornet. Free trial before you decide to buy. Write for big offer.

WURLITZER Free Band Catalog Write for big 250-page Band Catalog. Each bottom, direct from manufacturer's prices on all kinds of instruments. For a trial of a few cents a day. Generous allowance for old instruments free of charge. See the U. S. Gov't. Write today. The Wurlitzer Company, Dept. 3041, 4th St., Cincinnati, O. & Wash. Ave., Chicago.

Carrying Case Free with this superb triple silver-plated Lyric Cornet.

NEW SANITARY \$0.25

FEATHER BEDS FULL WEIGHT 40 POUNDS. 1 pair 6-ft. Flows to match. \$1.15. Selected, New, Lites, Clean. Sanitary Feathers. Best Featherproof Ticking. Sold on money back guarantee. **DO NOT BUY** from anyone at any price, until you get the **BOOK OF TRUTH**, our big new catalog mailed **FREE**. Write a postal card **TODAY**. Agents wanted. American Feather & Pillow Co., Desk, 208 Nashville, Tenn.

No Money

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Beveled
Plate
Mirror
Measures
29x16
Inches

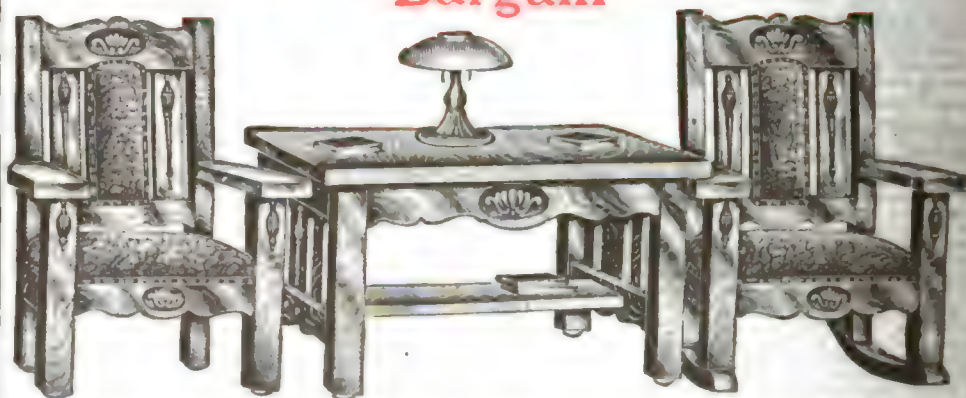


Fine Dresser Bargain

This beautifully designed Colonial dresser represents one of the finest values offered by the House of Hartman. It is massively built of hard wood, finished in a close imitation of genuine Quarter-Sawn Oak—rich golden color. Has large roomy base measuring 40x19 inches. Fitted with two overhung top drawers and two full length roomy drawers below.

All drawers trimmed with neat wood knobs and fitted with secure locks. Mirror frame is strictly Colonial in design and contains a high grade French beveled plate mirror measuring 29x16 inches. Mirror frame supported by artistic upright standards and further set off by handsome back guard. This dresser will add wonderfully to the appearance of your home. Send for it on our free trial offer. If you decide that it is not what you want, you may return it at our expense and you will not be out a cent. Merely mail coupon below. Order by No. MA262. Price only \$9.87. Terms: No Money in Advance, 50c in 10 days. Balance, 75c per Month.

Wonderful 5-Piece Library Set Bargain



Wonderful value in correctly designed William and Mary period 3-piece Library Set—substantially built throughout of solid oak, properly finished Fumed. Table made with large 26x38 inch top, trimmed with 3-panel end, offset by period carvings. Has shapely rim, convenient book shelf. Legs cut from 2-inch stock, fitted with nickel slides. Rocker and arm chair are extra roomy, splendidly constructed and unusually comfortable. Panel back and seats are upholstered in durable imitation Spanish leather, over wood fibre and jute. Dainty carvings will be found on panels in back and front post, as well as deep embossed carvings on top rail and seat rail. Six springs resting on steel channel bars support seat. Chair and rocker made with genuine quarter-sawn oak arms.

Order by No. MA259. Special Bargain Price \$16.95. Terms: No Money In Advance, 50c in 10 Days. Balance \$1.25 Per Month.

Kitchen Cabinet Bargain

Mail coupon below and let us send you this famous Hartman Solid Oak Kitchen Cabinet without one cent in advance, no C. O. D. or references like others ask, just to prove what a wonderful bargain it really is. We know you will find this Cabinet a wonderful value at our Special Bargain Price. Note the many up-to-the-minute time and labor-saving features.

Removable tilting metal flour bin with sifter attachment, 40 lb. capacity. 2 partitioned spice drawers, made to represent 6 small drawers, each divided into 3 sections. Swinging sugar container, 7 pound capacity. Wire rolling pin rack. Removable sliding kneading board. Handy cupboard for utensils in base, with convenient wire rack on door. Large utensil drawer and convenient bread and cake box with ventilated sliding metal top. Upper section of cabinet is beautifully trimmed with chipped glass doors. Has roomy handy cupboard with shelf. White wood top measures 42x26 inches. Extreme height of cabinet 65 inches. Base is mounted on invisible slides to prevent marring of floor. Attention is called to the continuous top construction, a feature only found on high priced and high grade Cabinets. All drawer bottoms, cupboard bottom and panels are made of 3-ply lumber which will absolutely prevent warping or splitting. Drawer pulls, catches, etc., are finished in bright copper. Entire case Gloss Golden finish. Send coupon—send no money—for free trial according to our liberal credit terms.

Order by No. MA258. Price \$16.85. Terms: No Money In Advance, 50c in 10 Days. Balance \$1.25 Per Month.



Solid Oak
Kitchen Cabinet



Seat Sup-
ported by Six
Steel Springs

Sensational Sale of Rockers

Send coupon for this big, roomy Rocker and let it prove for itself what a wonderful bargain it really is. An unusually attractive, sturdily built rocker, made with artistic solid oak frame, neatly finished gloss golden. Has embossed front post, measuring full 3 1/4 in. in width; shapely arms measuring 23 in. long by 3 1/2 in. wide. Back is divided into two sections, the uppermost section trimmed with straps and large buttons. Seat measures full 19 1/2 in. in width by 18 in. deep and is supported by 6 heavy steel coil springs fully covered with wood fibre and jute. Upholstering is of durable imitation Spanish brown leather. Remember, we don't ask you to send one cent in advance. We will send you this grand rocker for free trial. After it arrives, you can use it for 10 days as your own. Compare it with other rockers selling at anywhere near this low price. Then if you want to keep it, you can pay balance in small monthly payments—otherwise return at our expense and you are not out a cent.

Order by No. MA268. Price only \$4.85. Terms: No Money In Advance, 50c in 10 days. Balance 50c per Month.

Only 50¢

Sensation

The proof of the quality of any article is in the using of it. This is why we invite you to take your pick from these two pages of wonderful bargains. We will send you the bargain of your choice without a cent of advance payment, no deposit, no C. O. D., no references asked like others do, no mortgage, security or red tape of any kind.

We want you to judge our merchandise, not by the descriptions and illustrations shown here—which cannot begin to do it justice—but by actual use in your own home. We assume the entire responsibility. No obligation of any kind whatever rests upon you.

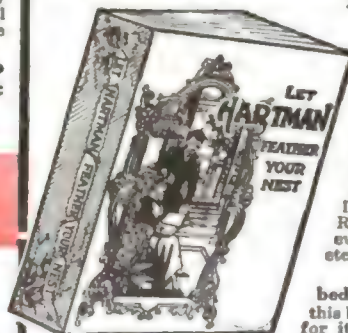
HARTMAN'S Low Prices

The House of Hartman is the gigantic home furnishing institution organized solely for the purpose of selling dependable home furnishings exclusively on easy credit. Hartman's is the largest concern of its kind in the world. We have over \$12,000,000 capital and resources—a buying power so vast that we can buy merchandise of every kind in stupendous quantities. We control the entire outputs of some of the largest factories and mills in the United States. Our tremendous volume of business enables us to quote lowest rock-bottom prices and to extend the most liberal credit terms ever devised.

Get Hartman's Mammoth Money-Saving Bargain Book FREE

Be sure to mail Coupon in left hand corner for your free copy of our Mammoth Bargain Book. Contains thousands of wonderful bargains in practically everything for beautifying the home. Pages 17 to 53 are filled with the most beautiful assortment of Rugs, Carpets, Table and Couch Covers, Portiers, etc., you can imagine, all handsomely illustrated in natural colors. Pages 53 to 67, a wonderful display of exquisite Table Sets and Lace Curtains. Then on up to page 260, you will imagine you are walking through an immense furniture store with an endless array of luxuriously upholstered Rockers, Easy Chairs, Couches, and Davenports, Beautiful Beds, richly carved Dining and Library Sets, Dressing Chiffoniers, Dressing Tables, Writing Desks, Case Closets, etc. Then comes 32 pages of Kitchen Cabinets, Sewing Machines, Sewing Tables, Mirrors, Lamp Clocks, Phonographs and other household articles, many pages beautifully printed in color. Our Silverware section, pages 293 to 306, shows practically everything you can think of in elegant guaranteed Silverware. Pages 307 to 330 are devoted to Traveling Bags, Suit Cases, Trunks, Porch Furniture, Lawn Swings, Glass and China Ware, Go-Carts, Baby Carriages, and Refrigerators. The Stove and Range section—331 to 391—will supply every need. Then there are pages devoted to Washing Machines, Wagon, etc., and two full and complete Paint and Roofing and Jewelry sections.

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Without any obligation on my part please send me Catalog or Catalogs I have checked below.

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(Place line like this — in front of Catalog or Catalogs wanted.)

My Name is

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HARTMAN

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Successful at most of Has no produces all. Has wicks. easy to ally re-homes a child-e tipped de down atever. ruetion. ose or 80 hours eigh of iam. of yraceful design. h 12 in. e, with panels, imental work. Order by No. MA 263. Price \$8.95. y in Advance. 50c in 10 days. Bal. 75c per month.

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Can Be Operated Sitting Down or Standing Up

Here is your chance to get one of the easiest to operate hand-power machines ever built. Can be worked sitting down or standing up, by 10 or 12 year old boy or girl without tiring. Note High Speed Fly Wheel. When started, practically keeps machine going with its own momentum. Fly wheel has space for belt, if desired to use as power machine. Some of the big improvements: Balance Wheel conveniently placed at outside of tub, enabling you to get at all working parts. Tub and other parts genuine kiln-dried Louisiana Red Cypress. Tub 34 in. in diameter, strongly bound with three metal hoop bands. Capacity eight shirts. Corrugated Bottom and sides get excellent results, while dasher block rotates at high speed and circulates the clothes round and round in the tub. Strong Wringer Attachment fitted to top of tub, enabling you to easily and firmly attach a large wringer. Dasher Post allows you to wash the finest fabrics. Tub stands upon four solid braced legs. Iron Parts finished with enameled paint. Send no money. Just the coupon brings it to you for free trial. Order by No. MA264. Price \$11.75. Terms: No money in advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance \$1.00 per month.



Fine Brussels Rug Special Bargain

Here is a wonderful bargain in a handsome Brussels rug. Is of beautiful design—in a rich Oriental medallion pattern. The colors are rich in tone, embracing a combination of shades with browns, tans and greens predominating. The worsted used in its weaving presents a surface that will render very fine service. Four sizes to choose from. You cannot duplicate this bargain on such liberal terms.

Order by No. MA260.

State size wanted.

Size 6x9 ft. Price \$11.75. Terms: No Money in Advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance \$1.00 per Month.

Size 8 ft. 3 in. x 10 ft. 6 in. Price \$18.35. Terms: No Money In Advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance \$1.50 per Month.

Size 9x12 ft. Price \$19.65. Terms: No Money In Advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance \$1.50 per Month.

Size 11 ft. 3 in. x 12 ft. Price \$26.85. Terms: No Money In Advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance \$2.00 per Month.



50c in 10 Days

Sensational Sale

We make this offer because we want you to see the tremendous values we offer.

The articles shown in this advertisement are merely an illustration of the wonderful bargains shown in our mammoth catalog.

Put us to the test. Let our merchandise speak for itself. If the quality stands the test of actual use, and you decide to keep what you order, pay only 50c in 10 days after arrival and the balance in small monthly payments according to prices and terms quoted under each item. If for any reason you do not wish to keep it, return shipment at our expense.

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Send no money—just the coupon—for any one of the big money-saving bargains shown on these two pages. Then when it arrives, you can decide at your leisure as to whether or not you wish to keep it.

Only one of these bargains will be sent to a family on these amazing terms; but when you receive our mammoth Bargain Catalog you can order as much as you like—all at bed-rock prices and on our easy credit terms.

Remarkable Bargains In Paint and Roofing

Order all the paint and roofing you need without sending a cent in advance. We'll send it to you on 10 days' approval, and, not until you are positively convinced that it is of fine quality and a great value at our special bargain prices, do we even expect you to keep it. If you decide to keep it, you may make a first small payment 10 days after it arrives, and pay the balance in small monthly payments on our easy, long-time credit terms. No mortgage, no C. O. D., no references asked like others do. If for any reason you are not entirely satisfied, return goods at our expense. You run no risk whatever.

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Send name and address on postal or coupon for Free catalog containing all paint colors. Also free samples of roofing prepaid and full details of Hartman's Easy Credit Plan.



48-Piece Gold Monogram Dinner Set



Just mail coupon and we will at once ship you the complete set with your monogram initial in gold on every piece. Be sure to state initial wanted. If you think this the biggest dinner set bargain you ever heard of and wish to keep it, just pay 50c in 10 days after dishes arrive and then 50c a month until our special get-acquainted bargain price of \$3.98 is paid. If you do not wish to keep them, return at our freight expense. Here is your opportunity to gratify your wish to set your table with as exquisite a set of dishes as the heart of any woman could desire. They are of splendid quality pure white Porcelain, decorated with gold bands and your own initial in gold on every piece.

Complete set consists of 6 dinner plates; 6 breakfast plates; 6 cups; 6 saucers; 6 fruit dishes; 6 new style soup coupes; 6 butter plates; 1 deep open vegetable dish; 2 meat platters; 1 sugar bowl and cover (2 pieces); 1 cream pitcher. Each dish is full size for family use and guaranteed perfect.

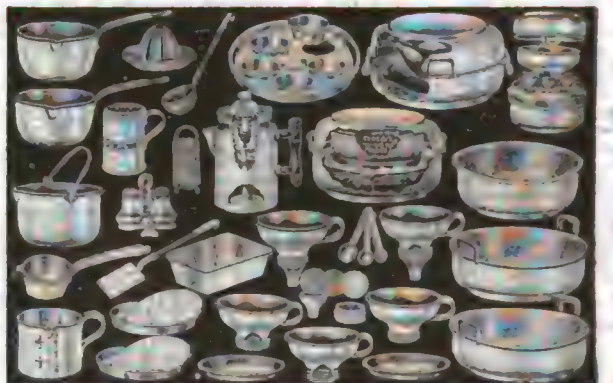
Order by No. MA271. Price only \$3.98. Terms: No Money In Advance. 50c in 10 days. Balance 50c per Month.

Be sure to state the initial you wish on your set.

Sensational 42-Piece Aluminum Ware Set

Here's your chance to get a wonderful 42-piece set of Aluminum Ware at a most remarkable bargain price. Don't send any money—just the coupon and we will immediately ship you the set for free trial. Each piece fully guaranteed—is seamless—will not scald, chip or crack. Complete set consists of—8-piece Combination Outfit consisting of 2-piece self-basting roaster, pierced tray with 5 egg poachers or custard cups and dairy pan; 7-cup Coffee Percolator with inset (two pieces); 6-qt. Preserving Kettle; 2 Bread Pans; 2 Pie Plates; 1-qt. Lipped Sauce Pan; 2-qt. Lipped Sauce Pan; 1 Ladle; 2 Jelly Cake Pans, with loose bottoms (4 pieces); 1 Castor Set consisting of Salt Shaker, Pepper Shaker, Toothpick Holder and Frame (4 pieces); 1 measuring Cup; 1 Combination Funnel (6 pieces); 3 Measuring Spoons; 1 Tea and Coffee Strainer; 1 Sugar Shaker; 1 Grater; 1 Cake Turner; 1 Lemon Juice Extractor.

Order by No. MA261. Price \$9.95. Terms: No Money In Advance. 50c in 10 Days. Balance 75c per Month.



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Without any money in advance, please send me article named below. If I keep it, I will pay 50c in 10 days after arrival of shipment, and balance in monthly payments as per prices and terms quoted in this advertisement. If I decide not to keep it, I will return it to you at your expense.

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Will Trust You

Automobile and Gas Engine Helps

Questions relating to gasoline engines and automobiles, by our subscribers, addressed to COMFORT Auto Dept., Augusta, Maine, will be answered by our expert, free, in the columns of this department. Full name and address is required, but initials only will be printed.

Grinding in the Valves

AFTER a season's run the valve faces are apt to become worn so that they do not properly register with their seats. This condition will result in loss of compression. Usually the exhaust valves are the worst offenders for the reason that they are subject to intense heat. A valve is nothing more or less than a gate or door for admitting the combustible gas into or the burnt gas out of the cylinder. The location of the valves in a motor is a matter of choice on the part of the engine designer. In some motors all valves are located on one side, in others the intake valves are on one side and the exhaust valves on the other. While some motors have the valves located in the heads of the cylinders, the exhaust valves do not properly seat there will be a loss of compression and power and a very weakening effect upon the mixture. It will also be a lack of compression and frequent shootings of flame through the carburetor. This condition is commonly referred to as backfires. In either case the remedy is to grind the valves and valve seats to fit. Usually the instruction book furnished with the car incorporates much advice concerning the grinding of valves. Nevertheless too much attention cannot be given this subject as it is often amusing to the mechanic to watch an owner attempt to seat a valve.

The designer of an engine always makes provision for the removal of a valve. Sometimes a valve can be got at by removing the cylinder head while at other times it is necessary to take off caps in the cylinder head. After removing the necessary parts to make the valve head visible the first step is to remove the key or pin that retains the valve spring. For the person who has never removed one of these keys the work is likely to prove somewhat perplexing. A suitable tool must be used for raising the valve spring so that the key can be taken out. When the key is removed it is a simple matter to remove the valve spring and then the valve. One of the commonest mistakes committed is the attempting to seat a valve that is badly pitted or the head of the valve is badly pitted the rough surface can be removed by placing the valve stem in a chuck and then cleaning the valve with a very fine file. Care must be taken to hold the file on the same angle on which the face of the valve is machined. The easiest method of doing this work is in a lathe. However, if such a machine is not convenient the operation can be done with an ordinary bit brace.

The majority of valves are recessed in the top center of the head this having been the support for the valve forcing when the same was originally machined in the lathe. When a bit brace is used this recess can be used for a support when filing as shown in the illustration. After making certain that the valve face is true examine the head of valve to determine whether it is slotted or drilled with two small holes. If the head is slotted a screw-driver bit may be used for turning the valve during the grinding operation. If two holes are drilled in the head a special grinding tool must be used. A tool for this purpose resembles a two-pronged fork. See illustration B.

To reset a valve it is necessary to have the valve lifter at the bottom. This can be determined by turning the motor over by hand until the lifter rises and then goes down. The grinding should first be done with a mixture of oil and emery or some preparation made especially for this work. A good surface can be imparted to the valve face by finishing the operation with a mixture of oil and ground glass. Before beginning the work it is advisable to place a piece of waste or cloth in the opening of the combustion chamber so as to prevent any emery from reaching the bore of the cylinder. Apply only a small amount of the abrasive to the valve at one time. Very slight pressure should be exerted on the grinding tool and only half turns should be made, first in one direction and then the other. During the grinding operation one is apt to become impatient and exert considerable pressure on the tool. Do not exert heavy pressure for the reason that the valve face and seat are apt to become scored or cut. Such a condition will make it almost impossible to seat the valve so that it will hold compression. Clean and wipe the valve face and seat often and note the extent of the bright line which will appear. When the valve is beginning to seat the bright line will appear irregular and broken. However, when this condition exists the valve is not properly seated and the grinding operation must be continued. When the valve is properly ground into its seat the bright line will appear for the full circumference of the valve face. See illustration C.

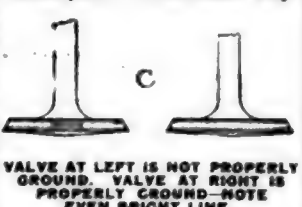
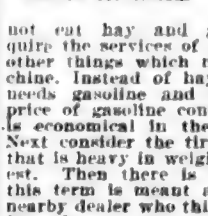
After making sure that the valves are properly ground it will be well to examine the valve spring. To prevent rapid wear of the valve guide and stem it is necessary that the ends of spring be true. This can be determined by placing the spring on a flat surface and noting that when so placed the spring stands perfectly upright. Turn the spring over and note that the same condition exists. Should the spring have a tendency to stand off at an angle the end should be squared up on an emery grinder. After putting the valves back make sure that there is a clearance of about the thickness of an ordinary name card between valve stem and valve lifter when the valves are fully closed. As all valves

do not close at the same time it will be necessary to turn the motor over by hand and test each valve separately. As a rule valve lifters are made adjustable so that this distance can be obtained.

Points to be Considered in Buying a Car

This is the time of the year when the motor world is looking forward to the large automobile shows which are to take place in all the large cities. The person who has any intentions of purchasing a car for the coming season will invariably visit at least one of these exhibits and before leaving is apt to decide on the car which in his opinion meets his requirements. The purpose of this article is not to discriminate but place the facts clearly before the prospective purchaser so that when he possesses the car he may have joy instead of regrets. The first point to strike the layman's eye is beauty. This is but natural but beauty does not give service and therefore one must first open the cover and go deeper. First decide definitely the amount of money which one is willing to invest and then view the cars which are priced within that limit. Next consider the nature of work which is required of the car. Estimate roughly the amount of money that must be spent for the upkeep and maintenance of the machine. Don't allow any silver-tongued salesman to convince you that the initial cost is the last. True it is that the car does not eat hay and grain nor occasionally require the services of a veterinarian but there are other things which must be bought for the machine. Instead of hay, grain and water the car needs gasoline and oil. In view of the high price of gasoline consider seriously the car that is economical in the consumption of this fuel. Next consider the tires, tire repairs, etc. A car that is heavy in weight wears out the tires quickest. Then there is the matter of service. By this term is meant a reliable manufacturer and nearby dealer who thinks just as much about keeping the car on the road as he does of accepting the profit from the sale. A slight accident may easily render the car inoperative and if parts or a good mechanic cannot be obtained readily it is necessary to keep the car idle for a considerable period. Cars are bought to run not stand idle. To consult a friend who owns a car of the same make you intend to buy before purchasing is in most instances time well spent.

GRINDING IN VALVE BY USE OF BIT BRACE.



VALVE AT LEFT IS NOT PROPERLY GROUND. VALVE AT RIGHT IS PROPERLY GROUND—NOTE EVEN BRIGHT LINE.

The Truck on the Farm

"Is the motor truck more economical for the farmer than the horse?" is a question frequently asked. If the farmer has sufficient work it is the honest opinion of the writer that the truck is the more economical in the end. Let us first consider that the latest statistics available show that the average farm horse only actually works approximately three and one half hours per day. This means that he eats 10 pounds of food for every hour of labor. Consider harness, wagons, horseshoes, care, etc. Some advocates of the motor truck have gone so far as to state that man works for the horse instead of the horse working for the man. They advance the following data proof: One horse consumes in a year approximately 12,000 pounds of food which is the equivalent of the harvest from five acres. The horse-shoes used in this country contain enough iron to build 40,000 average motor trucks. They next consider the number of street cleaners, wagon builders, harness makers, veterinarians, whip makers, food planters, reapers and machinery builders. The horse when idle must be fed and cared for while the truck if idle incurs no expense. Edison is credited with once saying that the horse is the poorest motor ever built. He advises that if the horse was built of metal like the gas engine, he would require no more space than the ordinary soap box. By this he no doubt wishes to infer that the horse is out of proportion when considering the amount of work he does. The amount of work that the horse can do is limited to a few hours each day while on the other hand the motor truck stands ready to work for man 24 hours each day and several days a week if necessary. The speed of the horse decreases as the hours of his labor increases while the speed of the truck remains the same regardless of the length of time used, and you do not have to favor it on a scorching hot day.

Polishing Mud Guards

As a rule mud guards or fenders as they are usually termed are not finished in the same manner as other parts of the car. Generally they are enameled instead of painted. A motorist who takes unusual pride in the appearance of his car advises that the fenders after being washed clean, can be polished so that one may see the reflection of his face by first smearing the enamel with lion Ami or some similar substance and when dry wiping it off with a soft cloth. All spots are said to be removed and a clean, bright surface produced.

Questions Answered

WHEN SPARK SHOULD BE RETARDED.—Please tell me what should be done to the spark when an automobile engine is in a hard pull. Also should the spark be retarded when starting? T. H. N., Haisin, Cal.

A.—It is the intention of the automobile manufacturer to time the ignition current so that the spark will take place when the piston in the cylinder reaches top center. Due to the time necessary to convert a primary current into secondary the spark must be advanced to compensate for the high speed of a motor. In other words the faster the engine is run the higher should be advanced the spark lever. When starting the motor however, regardless of whether the hand crank or electric starter be used the spark lever should be fully retarded. If the hand crank is used and the spark lever is advanced a back fire is apt to take place. Such an occurrence may result in broken limbs. If the electric starter is used and the spark lever advanced a heavy drain is placed on the storage battery and the starter commutator is apt to become burnt. When the engine is given a hard pull the spark lever should be advanced as far as possible without causing the motor to knock. As before stated the position of the lever depends upon the speed of the engine. At times it may be possible to run with the spark fully advanced while at other times it may be necessary to fully retard the spark. The speed of the engine is the only point to be considered in the handling of the spark lever. It follows, therefore, that in proportion as the hand pull lowers the engine speed the spark should be retarded to avoid knocking.

Comfort's League of Cousins

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17.)

my life I sip a cup of hot water. After that I take a tablespoonful of mineral oil and the juice of an orange. Mineral oil is tasteless and odorless, and is a perfect lubricant. People realize no matter how ignorant they are that an engine won't run without oil. The body also runs all the better for a little lubricating. Nothing stimulates the stomach more than a well-cleaned intestinal tract. Mineral oil is not absorbed. There is no nourishment in it. It is, as I said before, just a lubricant. All the big drug-houses put up this mineral oil which is simply refined paraffin oil. It is no good putting drugs into the stomach or expecting the stomach to act if the intestines are clogged and most intestines are clogged. Olive oil is a lubricant and a food, but the stomach absorbs so much of it that very little gets into the intestinal tract, and then again it nauseates many people. I also have on my tray at every meal five drops of nuxvomica, the greatest stomachic we have, a regular old medical stand by, and there is nothing to beat it. It tones up the stomach, gives one an appetite, helps to disperse gas, and is a splendid heart and nerve tonic. Nuxvomica is strychnine, a deadly poison if taken in large or even small quantities, ten drops is the limit. It can be taken before eating, or slipped while eating. After eating take five or ten grains of lactopipin or five or six drops of takadiastase in a little water. The latter drug is a starch digesting ferment, and has been used for a number of years by the best stomach specialists. It is cheap and can be got in any drug store. If you are troubled with gas, lie down on your right side for a little while then turn over on your left side. Repeat this stunt two or three times and then sit up and you will find the gas will immediately disperse. Turning from side to side acts as a stomach massage and churns up the food aids digestion and quickly expels gas. One should always keep in the house some tablets of soda, mint and pepsin. These tablets can be got for a few cents in any drug store and it has to be a pretty tough case of indigestion that they won't handle successfully. Gas is caused by food fermentation. The stomach is too weak or too diseased, or the digestive juices are not secreted in sufficient quantities to act on the contents of the stomach properly. When the food lies like a lump of lead and ferments. Usually because it is the wrong kind of food or it has not been properly chewed. Now if the stomach has been toned up with hot water and nuxvomica, and a digestive has been taken after eating, the odds are everything will run along smoothly and comfortably. If however there is still trouble, there is a tablet on the market which contains paw paw, soda and charcoal. This is broken up and dissolved in a little hot water and is often magic in its results. Now let me tell you something that few know about the stomach though all ought to know. The stomach is a born wanderer and as Dr. Woods Hutchinson says: "It loves to go availing." If you find it under your arm and walking around in your shoe don't be alarmed for it is quite some pedestrian. When the stomach goes on a visit to another part of the body it is utterly useless swallowing pepsin tablets. Sometimes the stomach drops away down out of its place, then it is impossible for it to empty the digested food up to and out of the pyloric end of the stomach. There is a little valve which at intervals opens and allows the food to pass from the pyloric end on the right side of the stomach into the duodenum which is the upper end and beginning of the small intestines of which you have no less than twenty-five feet, and from there into the big intestine and so out of the body. I read recently of a man who had stomach trouble and who went from specialist to specialist for months, getting no relief, until one physician who had something the others had not, sense and imagination, put him under the X ray and found that his tumble and dropped down out of place and was trying to hold an animated conversation with his big toe. Then the patient was put on his back, pillows placed under his hips, and a peregrinating, peripatetic, wanderlust stomach shuffled back into its place and the machinery of digestion went on normally and after a few weeks the man was well. People who have stomach trouble should first of all study the geography of the body and find out if the stomach is in its proper place or gone availing, for if it has gone availing, all the treatment and all the pepsin tablets in the world will be found useless. It would take a whole issue of COMFORT to discuss the diseases of the stomach. Acute indigestion is generally due to a catarrhal inflammation of the lining membrane of the stomach. Sometimes there is also acute catarrh of the first part of the intestines. This condition is caused by food which the stomach has been unable to digest and which has begun to decompose. This condition may be caused by fatigue, overeating, alcohol or an upset nervous system. Stomach specialists in chronic cases usually pump out the stomach after a test meal has been taken, make a chemical examination of the contents to discover the exact cause of the disorder. If a physician does not do this, his diagnosis is mere guesswork. Unless the organs are supplied with good blood the digestive juices will not be secreted properly. People who are anemic, whose blood is of poor quality, should, if they can digest them, eat raisins which are full of iron, and should keep in the open air as much as possible and improve the condition of the blood if they want to get rid of dyspepsia. The movements of the stomach and intestines and the secretions of the digestive juices are under the control of the nervous system. If your nerves are out of order, nervous dyspepsia generally results. The things that cause indigestion as a rule are frying pan abominations, fried articles of food, hot bread, pies, pancakes, ice water, soda water, too much candy and bad teeth. When there is vomiting and pain, especially vomiting of blood an ulcer of the stomach is usually indicated. An ulcerated stomach requires very careful treatment, as an ulcer may perforate the stomach wall and spill the contents of the stomach internally with disastrous results. Vomiting especially of dark coffee colored material, loss of weight and pain, especially in a person over forty, usually indicates catarrh of the stomach. When bright blood is coughed up it comes from the lungs, when dark blood is vomited it comes from the stomach. Now please preserve this article all of you, and it will save you asking numberless questions in the future, questions I am physically incapable of answering. No stomach ailment, remember, will yield to treatment unless one diets strictly. Directly the stomach shows signs of distress, give it a rest for a day and then go on milk diet until real genuine hunger sets in, then take to a semi-solid diet and finally to full diet. Cut out tea and coffee. They are poison.

AFTON, MINN.

DEAR UNCLE CHARLIE AND COUSINS: I want to express my appreciation of your splendid editorials and replies to the cousins' letters. They are not only interesting but also possess a high educational value. The forcible style and language they are written in, is well calculated to set the wheels of thought in motion in the most hardened human fossil that ever lived. They have been and are still a source of inspiration and encouragement to me. I have your book of poems—a better cure for the blues I have never found. I am passionately fond of books and nearly all of my spare time is spent in their company. I am a farmer thirty years of age and single. I have a farm of forty acres. They are devoted to the growth of small fruit and vegetables. Afton (where I live) is becoming favorably known throughout the state for its excellent strawberries and raspberries. We sell our fruit through a cooperative association which we organized about two years ago and have found it a better method than the old one. Formerly each grower was obliged to haul his own berries to market or sell at home to buyers from the cities but at a loss to the grower. St. Paul is the capital of our state and has a population of over 200,000 people. I live within twelve miles of our new state prison. It is one of the best and most modern prisons in the United States if not in the world. At present writing the total number of inmates is 1,000.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23.)

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The Masked Bridal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

and I do not believe this is any place for you. You are too fair and sweet to serve a woman with such a disposition as madam possesses, and I wish you would leave her when we go back to the city. I know you are poor, and have no friends upon whom you can depend; but I would settle a comfortable annuity upon you, so that you could be independent and make a pretty little home for your—"

"How dare you talk to me like this? Do you think I have no pride—no self-respect?" Edith demanded.

Her act and the flash of the diamond attracted his attention to the little chain and shamrock upon her breast.

The sight seemed to paralyze him for a moment, for he stood like one turned to marble.

"Where did you get it?" he at last demanded, in a scarcely audible voice, as he pointed a trembling finger at the jewel. "Tell me—tell me! how came you by it?"

Edith regarded him with astonishment. Involuntarily she put up her hand and covered the ornament from his gaze.

"It was given to me," she briefly replied.

"Who gave it to you?"

"A friend."

"Was it your—relative?" cried the man.

"No, it was simply a friend."

"Tell me who!"

"All that I can tell you, Mr. Goddard," she gravely said, after a pause, "is that the chain and ornament were given to me very recently by an aged friend—"

"Aged!" the man interposed, eagerly.

"Yes, by a person who must be at least sixty years of age," the young girl replied.

"Ah!" The ejaculation was one of supreme relief. "Excuse me, Miss Allen!" he continued, in a more natural manner than he had yet spoken.

"I did not mean to be curious, but—a person whom I once knew had an ornament very similar to the one you wear—"

He was interrupted just at this point by the sound of a rich, mellow laugh that echoed down the hall like a strain of sweetest music; whereupon Gerald Goddard jumped as if some one had dealt him a heavy blow on the back.

"Good Heaven! who was that?" he cried, with livid lips.

But Edith, taking advantage of the diversion, glided swiftly from the room.

The man stood motionless for a moment after her departure, as if waiting for the sound, which had so startled him, to be repeated.

But it was not, and going to the door, he peered into the hall to see who was there.

There was no one visible save the housekeeper, who just at that moment, accosted a housemaid, to whom she appeared to be giving some directions.

"Ah! it was only one of the guests," he muttered, "but the voice was wonderfully like—like Ugh!"

He waited a few moments longer, trying to compose his nerves, which had been sadly unstrung, both by the wine he had drunk in much larger quantities than usual, and the incidents that had just occurred, and then sought his own room, where he rang for a brandy-and-soda, and after taking it, went below to attend to his duties as host.

But neither he nor Edith dreamed that their recent interview had been observed by a third party, or had seen the white convulsed face that had been looking in upon them, between the blinds at one of the windows, near which they had been standing.

Anna Goddard had sought her own room, directly after dinner, to make some little change in her toilet, and get her gloves, which she had left lying upon her dressing case.

As she opened the door of her boudoir she came very near giving utterance to a scream of fear upon coming face to face with a man.

The man was Emil Correlli, who had gained entrance to the apartment by climbing the vine trellis which led to the window. His secret return was in accordance with a plan previously agreed upon.

He informed his sister that he had sent a card of invitation to Mrs. Stewart of the Copley Square Hotel.

"I am glad you did," she responded; "I have long desired to meet her."

They then proceeded to discuss the important event of the evening and Mrs. Goddard assured him that their plot was progressing admirably. Still she manifested a tinge of remorse as she thought of the despicable trick she had devised against the fair girl whom her brother was so eager to possess.

"Anna you must not fail me now!" he exclaimed, "or I will never forgive you! The girl must be mine or—"

"Hush!" she interposed. "Did some one knock,"

"I heard nothing."

"It was only a false alarm," she murmured, glancing down the hall; then she started, as if stung, as she caught sight of two figures in the room diagonally opposite hers.

Her face grew ghastly, but her eyes blazed with a tiger-like ferocity.

She closed the door noiselessly, then with stealthy, cat-like movements, she stole toward the French door, leading out upon the veranda, throwing a long mantle over her light dress and bare shoulders. Then she passed out, and crept along the veranda toward a window of the room where her husband and Edith were talking.

She could see distinctly through the slats of the blinds, which were movable—could see the man bending toward the graceful girl, whom she had never seen so beautiful as now, his face eager, a wistful light burning in his eyes, while his lips moved rapidly with the tale that he was pouring into her ears.

She could not hear a word, but her jealous heart imputed the very worst to him.

She could see that Edith repudiated him—that she was indignant and dismayed; but this circumstance did not soothe her in the least.

It was enough to arouse all the worst elements of her fiery nature to know that the girl's charms were alluring the man whom she worshipped and a very demon of jealousy and hatred possessed her.

She watched them until she saw her husband give that guilty start, of which Edith took advantage to escape, and then, her hands clenched until the nails almost pierced the tender flesh, her lips convulsed—her whole face distorted with passion and pain, she turned from the spot.

"I have no longer any conscience," she hissed, as she sped swiftly back to her room. "The girl is doomed—she has sealed her own fate. As for him—if I did not love him so, I would—"

A shudder completed her sentence, but smoothing her face, she removed her wraps, and went to tell her brother that she must go below, but would have his dinner sent up immediately.

Then drawing on her gloves, she hastened down to join her guests in the drawing-room.

CHAPTER XI.

"NOW MY VENDETTA AND TRIUMPH WILL BE COMPLETE!"

When Anna Goddard descended to her spacious and elegant parlors, her face was wreathed with the brightest smiles, which, alas! covered and concealed the bitterness and anger of her corrupt heart, even while she circulated among her friends with apparently the greatest pleasure, and with her usual charm and manner.

After a short time spent socially, the guests repaired to the spacious carriage-house, where the theatrical performance was to take place, to secure the most desirable seats for the play, before the multitude from outside should arrive.

The place had been very handsomely decorated, and lighted by electricity for the occasion. Potted flowers, palms and ferns were artistically grouped in the corners, and handsome draperies were hung here and there to simulate windows and doors, and to conceal whatever might otherwise have been unsightly.

The floor had been covered with something smooth, linoleum or oil-cloth, and then thoroughly waxed, for after the play was over, the place was to be cleared for dancing.

Across one end, a commodious stage had been erected, although this was at present concealed by a beautiful drop-curtain of crimson felt, bordered with old gold.

The room filled rapidly, and long before the time for the curtain to ascend, every seat was occupied.

At eight o'clock, precisely, the signal was given, and the play began.

Programs had been distributed among the audience—dainty little cards of embossed white and gold they were, too—announcing the title, "The Masked Bridal," giving the names of the participants, and promising that the affair would close with a genuine surprise to everyone.

The piece opened in an elegantly appointed library, with a spirited scene and dialogue between a young couple, who were desirous of marrying, and the four objecting parents.

In the next scene the unfortunate young couple are represented as plotting with two other lovers, whose wedding-day is set, to circumvent their obdurate parents, and carry out their determination to become husband and wife.

This offer was full of energy and interest, and the curtain went down amid enthusiastic applause.

Edith, who had assisted madam in the dressing-room as long as she was needed, had come outside, at the beginning of the scene, and stationed herself at the back of the room to watch the progress of the play.

But she had been there only for a few moments when someone touched her on the shoulder to attract her attention.

Glancing around, she saw a young girl, one of the guests in the house, who remarked:

"Mrs. Goddard wished me to tell you to come to her at once in her boudoir. Please be quick, as the matter is important."

Edith immediately glided from the room, but wondering what could have happened that madam should want her in her own apartments, when she supposed her to be behind the scenes.

Meantime, while the guests were being entertained with the play of which their hostess was the acknowledged author, a mysterious scene was being enacted within the mansion.

When the hour for the entertainment drew near, the house, as we know, had been emptied of its guests, until only the housekeeper, the butler, and the other servants remained.

The butler had been instructed to keep ward and watch below, while Mrs. Weld went upstairs, ostensibly to ascertain that everything was as it should be there, but in reality, to carry out a project of her own.

Seeking the maids, who, since they had no duties at that particular moment to occupy them, had gathered in the dressing-rooms, and were discussing the merits of the various costumes which they had seen, she remarked, in her kindly, good-natured way:

"Girls, I am sure you would like a peep at the play, and Mrs. Goddard gave me permission to send you out, if you could be spared. I will look after ever thing up here, and you may go now, only be sure to hurry back the moment it is over, for you will then be needed again."

They were of course delighted with this privilege, but Mollie who was an unusually considerate girl, and always willing to oblige others, inquired:

"Wouldn't you like to see the play, Mrs. Weld? I will stay and let you go."

"No, thank you, child, I had enough of such things years ago," the housekeeper returned.

"Run along, all of you, so as to be there when the curtain goes up."

And the girls, only too eager for the sport, needing no second bidding, sped away.

Thus the upper portion of the mansion was entirely deserted, but for the housekeeper and the unsuspected presence of Emil Correlli, who was locked within his own room, awaiting from his sister the signal for his appearance upon the stage below.

The moment the housemaids were beyond hearing, Mrs. Weld gave utterance to a long sigh of relief, whipped off her blue spectacles, and with a swift, noiseless step, wholly unlike her usual waddling gait, hurried down the hall, and into Mrs. Goddard's room, carefully closing and locking the door after her.

Proceeding to the dressing-room, a quick, searching glance showed her the object she was looking for—her lady's jewel-casket, standing wide open upon a small, marble-top table near a full-length mirror.

It had been rifled of most of its contents, madam herself having worn many of her jewels, while others had been loaned to the actors to embellish their costumes for the play.

"Ah! my task is made much easier than I expected," murmured the woman.

She saw only an empty tray, which she carefully removed, only to find another exactly like it underneath.

This also she took out, revealing the bottom of the box, covered with its velvet cushion, upon which there were indentations, to receive a full set of jewelry, necklace, bracelets, tiara, brooch and ear-rings.

The housekeeper's face was ghastly pale, or would have been but for the stain which gave her complexion its olive tinge, and she was trembling with excitement.

"She surely took that paper from this box," she muttered, a note of disappointment in her voice, as if she had expected to find what she sought upon removing the second tray.

"I wonder if this cushion can be removed?" she continued, as she tried to lift it from its place.

But it fitted so closely she could not stir it.

Looking around the room for something to assist her in this effort, she espied a pair of scissors on the dressing-case.

Seizing them she attempted to pry up the cushion with them.

It was not an easy thing to do, without defacing the velvet, but, at length, she succeeded in lifting one side, when she found no difficulty in removing the whole thing.

Her agitation increased as her glance fell upon several papers snugly packed in the bottom of the box.

"Ah! if it should prove to be something of no account to me!" she breathed, with trembling lips.

At last she straightened herself with sudden resolution, and putting her hand into the box drew forth the uppermost paper.

It was yellow with time, and so brittle that it cracked apart in one of the creases as she opened it; but paying no heed to this, she stepped to the dressing-case, and spread it out before her, while her eager eyes swept the mystic page from top to bottom.

Then a cry that ended in a great sob burst from her hushed lips.

"It is! it is!" she gasped, in voiceless agitation. "Ah, Heaven, thou art gracious to me at last! Now, I know why she would not surrender it to him—now I know what the condition of its ransom must have been!"

"How long has she had it, I wonder? and when did she first learn of its existence?" she murmured. "Ah! but it does not matter—I have it at last—I, who dared not hope for its existence, believing it must have been destroyed, until the

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other day; and now"—throwing back her head with an air that was very expressive—"my vindication and triumph will be complete!"

With the greatest care, she refolded the paper, after which she impulsively pressed it to her lips; then, putting it away in her pocket, she turned back to the jewel-casket, and peered curiously into it once more.

"I wonder what other intrigues she has been guilty of!" she muttered, regarding its contents with a frown.

She laid her hand upon one of the papers, as if to remove it, then drew back.

"No," she said, "I will touch nothing else; I have what I came to seek, and have no right to meddle with what does not concern me. Let her keep her other vile secrets to herself; my victory is already complete."

She replaced the velvet cushion, pressing it hard down into its place.

She then restored the trays as she had found them, but did not close the casket, since she had found it open.

She retraced her steps into the boudoir, where, as she was passing out, she trod upon something that attracted her attention.

She stooped to ascertain what it was, and discovered a gentleman's glove.

"Ah," she said, as she picked it up and examined it. "I should say it belongs to madam's brother! In that case, he must have returned this evening to attend the grand finale, although I am sure he was not at the dinner-table."

She dropped the glove upon the floor where she had found it, but there was a look of perplexity upon her face as she did so.

"It seems a little strange," she mused, "that the young man should have been away all this time; and if he was to return at all, I cannot understand why there should have been this air of secrecy about it. He has evidently been in this room tonight, but I am sure he has not been seen about the house."

She opened the door and passed out into the hall, when she was startled to hear the voice

of Mrs. Goddard talking, in the hall below, with the butler.

Mrs. Weld quietly slipped across to the room opposite—the same one in which Edith and Mr. Goddard had held their interview earlier in the evening—where, seating herself under a light, she caught up a book from the table, and pretended to be deeply absorbed in its contents.

A moment later, madam, having ascended the stairs, came hurrying down the hall, and saw her there.

She started.

It would never do for the woman to suspect the truth regarding what she was about to do.

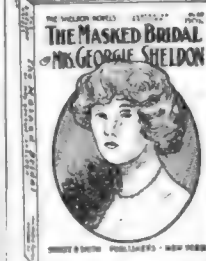
No one must dream that Edith was not lending herself willingly to the last scene in the drama of the evening and she expected to have some difficulty in persuading her to take the part.

There must be no possibility of anyone hearing any objections that she might make, for, in that case, the charge of fraud could be brought and proved against her and her brother, after all was over.

But after the first flash of dismay, the cunning woman devised a scheme which would take the housekeeper out of her way and leave the field clear for her operations.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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American Woolen Mills Co.
Dept. 107 Chicago

Comfort Sisters' Corner

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12.)

send a stamped envelope, I will gladly tell as much as I can about N. Dak. Comfort's Sisters' Corner is too precious to tell all that many wished to know. We are still on the ranch, still trying to be cheerful in these days of hard living, for our crops were failures this year—and it is just another load the bank bears in granting loans to many who have to mortgage stock and sometimes, the ranch also, to get money to tide them over until next year—but

"Better to hope tho' the clouds hang low,
And to keep the eyes still lifted;
For the bright blue sky will soon peep through,
When the ominous clouds are sifted."

For the benefit of those who asked, but gave no address, let me say that we have no children, no home-friends, and no relatives here, that we were forced to come to this place through circumstances over which we had no control.

"I would have chosen my life to be
Active, tireless and strong;
A constant, ceaseless working for Him,
Amid the needy throng.
But He chose for me a better lot—
A life of frequent pain
Of strength withheld when 'twas needed most,
And loss instead of gain."

For God doeth all things well.

I must leave you now, but remember this, that although I am so far, far away from all of you, I think of you every day and pray for God to bless you every night.

If not too busy in each of your several homes, I shall be doubly grateful for a loving thought and prayer. May God's rich blessing be to COMFORT, its staff, Uncle Charlie, especially, and to all the loving readers.

Lingeringly, lovingly, farewell. If we never meet again.

Home Is Where the Heart Is

Home's not merely four square walls,
Though with pictures hung and gilded,
Home is where affection calls,
Filled with shrines the heart hath builded!

Home!—go watch the faithful dove,
Sailing 'neath the Heaven above us;
Home is where there's one to love,
Home is where there's one to love us!

Home's not merely roof and room—
It needs something to endure it;
Home is where the heart can bloom—
Where there's some kind lip to cheer it!

What is home with none to meet—
None to welcome, none to greet us?
Home is sweet—and only sweet—
Where there's one we love to meet us.

—Charles Swain.

Trifles

What will it matter in a little while
That for a day
We met and gave a word, a touch, a smile
Upon the way?

What will it matter whether hearts were brave
And lives were true;
That you gave me the sympathy I crave
As I gave you?

These trifles! Can it be they make or mar
A human life?
Are souls as lightly waved as rushes are
By love or strife?

Yes, yes! a look the fainting heart may break
Or make it whole;
And just one word, if said for love's sweet sake,
May save a soul.

—May Riley Smith.

The Arrow and the Song

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I know not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I know not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

—Henry W. Longfellow.

Best Ways of Doing Things Around the Home

Polish mirrors with a soft flannel dampened with camphor.

Scald your sponges thoroughly every little while, as they collect germs.

Clean gold lace or embroidery by brushing it with a soft brush dipped in alcohol.

Never put dresses and coats away until they are thoroughly brushed and aired.

To brighten carpets wipe them with warm water in which has been poured a few drops of ammonia.

If brooms are soaked in strong, hot salt and water before using, the splints will not break in sweeping.

I use my cherry pitter to pulp grapes and find it a great help. Mrs. JENNIE ODELL, South Lyon, Mich.

When the middle of the sheets wear out, make pillow cases of the sides. Pillow cases made this way will wear a long time.

MARGARET JOHNS, Sarasota, Fla.

Try cooking dried apples mixed with dried apricots,

The Way of a Woman

By Maud Mary Brown

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PART II.

COULD it be the dainty, lissome stenographer she had smiled at in Norman's private office?

She dismissed that thought as soon as it was conceived. Norman was not the man to carry his shame into his business.

Suddenly a piercing thought drove itself into her brain there to become conviction. Edith Thornton! Norman admired her extravagantly. Might not the feeling have become warmer? Her ideas were advanced and her instincts lenient toward guilt.

Or weren't they? Was she being uncharitable in her misery? At any rate, one knew almost nothing of her life before she had come to the city a few years earlier. She tried to shut out the throbbing thoughts.

Every minute was bringing her nearer to Norman—the bitter celebration of her natal day.

"We are almost there?"

Stanley nodded, his morose eyes on the stretch of smooth road.

"Stop!" she said imperatively. "I want to go down there a minute."

She pointed to a lovely cluster of trees by a little stream.

Already past it, Stanley reversed and drew out of the road.

"Lesbia, don't cut up rough with Norman," he said sharply as she opened the door of the car.

"You aren't blameless, you know. I've been thinking it over on the way up. At first I wanted to take his throat in my naked hands and tear the breath out of it, but I begin to see his point of view."

Lesbia, arrested, looked at her brother, stunned. Was the boy mad?

"Men want comrades in their wives, but you girls won't be that after you're married. You go off on lines of your own and your husbands can jolly well paddle their own pleasure craft. I can remember when you were crazy to get off alone with Norman. I tell you, women tire of propinquity a lot quicker than men do."

"But you seem to forget that we have—"

"Don't say you have children! You all presume on that. Children make convenient whips to lash your husbands' desires into the shape of your own. It's great to be a mother, but I'd rather a wife of mine qualified as a wife first. I've heard Norman beg you to go off on trips with him and you've refused. His wishes never seem to count with you now."

"But—"

"You seem to think just because you're married you can settle back and pick out the kind of life that suits your own selfish desire."

"You're brutal!" gasped Lesbia.

"I don't wonder men cut loose. You keep the letter of the decalogue but you take a pick-axe to its spirit and then you go up in the air when you can't get by with it. Go down to that bunch of trees if you want to, but take along what I've said."

Lesbia went, stumbling blindly. She was insensible to the thrilling whispers of the mated birds, the fragrant country sweetness of the air, and the soft violet tints on land and river.

Without wishing it, she was analyzing herself. It was as if she had lost physical control of her mental processes. With her back against a tree, she groped for conclusions and grasped them.

When she went back to the car, Stanley shot her one quick, inquiring glance before throwing in the clutch, but he asked no question. He had no need. Her white face was serene. She had fought her beasts and triumphed.

A few minutes later they were at the hospital.

"I'll go to the hotel. It's better for me not to come till you send for me."

Lesbia nodded, grateful for Stanley's perception.

"Mr. Vaughan is conscious now. His injuries, while painful, are not serious," an interne said to Lesbia.

"Mrs. Vaughan is only nervously unstrung," "There has been a mistake. I am Mrs. Vaughan," Lesbia explained quietly.

"I see. Mistakes frequently occur."

She was glad that a hospital staff is impervious to curiosity.

about two parts apple to one part apricots. This is much better than either fruit cooked alone. This is good to make sandwiches of when traveling, as it keeps well. We usually take some in a glass jar.

Pick your apples in the last quarter of the moon and the little bruises will dry down instead of rotting. Also when setting out a young orchard, set the trees in the first quarter of the moon and they will bear much earlier. This is not guesswork for it has been tested. I plant my garden in the moon. It has never failed to get good results, if the season is any ways a good one.

MRS. BENJ. CLANIN, Siloam Springs, Ark.

Remedies

BURNS.—For carbolic acid burns or burns with lye, apply vinegar freely.

HONEY mixed with a little black pepper is said to cure any cough, except consumption.

HONEY is splendid used as a poultice on boils, cuts or raw sores. It is also good to give a person an appetite when they are "all run down" even if they can't eat much of it at first.

MRS. BENJ. CLANIN, Siloam Springs, Ark.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BLADDER.—Steep a tablespoon of whole flaxseed in a quart of boiling water until it is quite thick. Add the juice of half a lemon, and sugar to taste. Drink freely in place of other liquid. This is an old remedy given us many years ago by an old physician and it all we ever use for this trouble.

M. V. H., California.

Requests

Mrs. Ethel K. Jones, Clayton, Gresham Route, N. Mex., would like song, "The Little Match Girl."

Mrs. A. Tsigaridis, Sheldon, R. R. 1, Box 56, N. Dak., would like words and music of song, "When I Lost You."

Georgia Lee Boyle, Hoods, Ky., would like songs, "I'll not be with you long dear mother," and "In that white city."

Will some sister send me about three hundred china berries. I will return the favor in any way I can. Mrs. M. O. Monson, Upland, R. R. 1, Nebr.

Can any reader send me the August and September COMFORT of the year 1915? I will return favor in any possible way.

Mrs. JESSIE ROSENCRANTZ, Weldman, Mich.

Mrs. J. D. Sutphin, Cincinnati, 1508 Blue Rock St., Ohio, would like to hear from sisters living in Colorado who know of a small farm that can be homesteaded or bought. One near works of some kind.

The young doctor left her at Norman's door. She paused to marshal her courage before stepping into the room.

He lay quite quiet, looking as helpless as a child in his bandages.

His eyes brightened at the sight of Lesbia.

The nurse left the room as Lesbia went over to the bed and knelt to touch him.

"Dearest girl, can you forgive me?" he asked in wistful eagerness.

She caressed the hand that lay on the white coverlet.

"They tell me she isn't badly injured. Is it true? Tell me. Have you seen her?"

His solicitude very nearly broke Lesbia's control.

"Do you want me to go to her now?"

"Oh, please. And come at once to tell me she is all right."

How she ever got to the other woman's door she never knew. But she found herself there, blinded, and deafened by the pounding in her ears.

She pulled herself together at a little cry from the high bed. She compelled herself to go over to where the woman lay, inert and very lovely, even in the plain white hospital robe.

Her eyes clearing at last, Lesbia gave a sobbing gasp as she gathered her into her strong arms.

"It's you! To think that it's you! Oh, Sylvia, darling, I'm so glad it's you!"

"So I gather," Sylvia said dryly. "If your gladness is in proportion to my injuries, I suppose you would have been transported if I'd been killed. I'll get smashed up again some day just to please you."

"You don't understand, dear," Lesbia was laughing as she wept. "The papers—I thought

Sylvia looked at her shrewdly. "I believe I do understand," she guessed. "They have been calling me Mrs. Vaughan. Did it reach the papers that way?"

Lesbia nodded.

"And you thought—oh, Lesbia!"

"I know," Lesbia said, abashed.

"And he did it because you were so disappointed that I couldn't get there for the dinner. He met me at the Lodge directly after the wedding. We were trying to get home for tea."

Lesbia got up from her knees. "I must go call Stanley. He thinks—the other thing."

But there was no need to telephone Stanley. On the broad stair she met him, leaping up noiselessly.

"It's all right, sis," he cried, his arm about her waist.

"That darn-fool clerk recognized Norman and thought he did you and registered that way. That's what comes of being as-alike-as-two-peas twins."

"Go to Sylvia, in there. I want Norman alone."

"I say, Lesbia, I talked like a sponge back there."

She went to Norman, smiling into his pathetically anxious eyes.

"Sylvia's as right as rain," she said. "You can both go home with Stanley and me in the big car tomorrow."

"Oh, Lesbia! What a mess of a birthday it has been!"

"Why, Norman, it has been a heavenly one! To know that you were hurt and to find you like this!"

"Lesbia," after a time, "I'm almost afraid of you. There's something new in your face—something blinding, like a too-bright sun."

There are times when, with bowed head and reverent knee, we enter the very presence of the Godhead. That Lesbia had passed through such a moment and that the radiance still lingered, Norman could not know.

"As soon as you're able, dear, let's go on a long trip together—just the two of us—a gypsy-ing," she said.

There was no need to telephone Stanley. On the broad stair she met him, leaping up noiselessly.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15.)

L. G.—Should say the trouble in the throat is something local. Possibly the bird has swallowed

A. L. K.—I fear the pullet has tuberculosis, as you say there were white spots on the spleen and liver. The peculiarity of bird tuberculosis is the fact that the droppings of the affected bird may spread the disease, so, as doctoring is seldom successful, the safest way is to kill any suspicious cases. The first noticeable symptoms are loss of weight, loss of appetite, the muscles, paleness of the comb, and later, dullness, sleepiness and diarrhea, and sometimes inflammation or swelling of the joints of the shanks. In some cases, the birds will succumb to the disease without the aid of all suspicious birds, thoroughly cleanse and disin-

had been my first success. The 100-egg, hot water heat incubator I bought, I put in the cellar even though the weather was extremely cold. It took three days for the machine to heat and the thermometer to reach 100 degrees, the right temperature for putting the eggs into the tray. I kept my heat to 102 degrees to 103 degrees the first week, from 104 degrees to 104 1/2 degrees the remaining time, and at about 105 degrees while the hatch was coming off. I allowed no other person to go near the machine and attended to every detail.

Address.....

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.)

to help you gather in your hay and strawberries, and if you provide me with a stepladder I'll just be in my glory picking potatoes off the trees and digging tomatoes out of the deep, rich, loamy Minnesota soil. I'm ever so glad you have had sense enough to organize and through your organization now get a decent price for your produce. In union there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. That magic word organization Alvin, which has been your salvation has been what has kept me and my good customs for tens of thousands of people the world over from being harmed. If all men and women, Alvin were like you, passionately fond of books, we should have a reading nation and that would mean a thinking nation, but, alas, the American people are not reading as much as they did a decade ago. The whole country today is pleasure mad. Pleasure is all right in its place but it does not get us anywhere. The money that once went into books and into artistic and beautiful things, pictures, statuary, ceramics and decorations, etc., now goes into the buzz wagon. People who spend every evening of their lives in their cars, and a goodly portion of the day, can't do much reading and have little time for serious thought. A **million** of the headlines of the papers occasionally doze over a magazine story, for all the world's on wheels and the motor car is king. If however the evening isn't favorable for a car ride then the whole family is off to the movies. One in every twenty-five of the inhabitants of this country has an automobile, and twenty-five in every one if you can figure that out have

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28.)

SMYTH'S 60 INCUBATOR
ALL STEEL

ON 30 DAYS' FREE TRIAL HOLDS FULL 60 EGGS

\$2.92 60 EGGS

To quickly popularize SMYTH'S All Steel egg Incubators, we will sell, \$1.00 at only \$2.92 each. Guaranteed to hatch as large a per cent of strong, healthy chicks as any incubator made, regardless of name, make or price. Made of polished steel, with double walled air chamber, 1917 improved disculator standard throughout, thermometer visible through glass window, heat safety metal lamp, heat resistant outer edges, water jacketed heat line and automatic heat regulator insuring even temperature and moisture in every part of egg chamber, and proper heat in all all the time. For directions mail in each line **SEND FIVE** deposit and we will send you this high-grade, latest improved SMYTH'S all steel 60 egg incubator by express subject to examination. Balance \$2.92 and express charges to agent after you find the incubator perfectly satisfactory and the greatest incubator bargain in the world, then take it home. **TRY IT 30 DAYS** at our risk and if you do not find it as good a hatcher as for any reason you are dissatisfied, return at our expense, we will refund your \$1.00 and freight. **PARCEL POST** extra charge. If you want incubator sent by parcel post postage and we will send on express liberal risk offer as above. Shipping weight 19 lbs. We make very low prices on large incubators, brooder and poultry supplies of all kinds in our big low incubator Catalog sent you free upon request. Order incubator or poultry today.

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Under this heading all questions by COMFORT subscribers on subjects not related to the special departments elsewhere in the paper will be answered, as far as may be. COMFORT readers are advised to read carefully the advertisements in this paper, as they will often find in them what they seek through their questions addressed to this Bureau. They will thus save time, labor and postage.

NOTICE.—As the privilege of this Bureau and of all other departments of COMFORT are for subscribers only, no attention will be given any inquiry which does not bear the writer's correct name and address. Initials only, or a fictitious name, if requested, will appear in the published answer, but the inquiry must invariably be signed by the writer's true name.

Mrs. T. Oak Mills, Kans.—There are in the neighborhood of three hundred periodicals of various kinds in the United States owned and published by colored people, a large part of them being religious. They are to be found in thirty-five states and the District of Columbia, with Mississippi leading with thirty-one and Alabama second with twenty-three. Our list, however, is not recent. Of the Western states Oklahoma leads with thirteen and of the Eastern states, Pennsylvania with eleven. The total negro population in the United States in 1910 was 9,827,743. Washington with a population of 331,069 contains the largest number of negroes, 94,446, while Lowell, Mass., with a population of 106,294 contains the smallest number only 133. Mississippi leading with 37 publications also leads in negro population with 1,069,487, or, say, about 33,333 people for each publication.

Mrs. J. R. Tibbee Station, Miss.—Mr. Henry Ford, the well-known capitalist, was born at Greenfield, Mich. July 30, 1863, and learned the machinist's trade. He has made more money at it than any man ever did before and in less time.

W. L. Whiteville, Tenn.—Few substances are magnetic in the sense of being attracted by a magnet, but magnetic attraction acts through any and all substances. A magnet on one side of a sheet of glass will attract iron on the other side as though the glass was not between. (2) The only licenses required to sell articles advertised in COMFORT are of a local character if they exist at all, which usually they do not. Ask your town officer if Whiteville requires a license.

Anxious, Sunnyfield, Ill.—Unless you have a reputation as a public speaker or lecturer, there is no chance for you to get such a position as you seek because there are hundreds of speakers and lecturers of experience who want something to do in their line. This is an age of efficiency and only efficient have the call.

J. Y. Ireland, Texas.—The popular interpretation of Isaiah is "The Lord watch between me and thee while we two are parted." Look it up in your Bible. Didn't you know it was a Bible word?

Bookworm, Wilton, Wis.—There have been thousands of pictures painted with Christ as the subject and some of them may bear the title "The Coming of Christ," but we do not now recall one that is "considered a magnificent creation." Some of the Christ pictures of the old masters were and are magnificent creations, but not under the title you give.

L. E. S. Silvertown, Oregon.—The beginner who is so wholly lacking in literary information as you are is wasting time, paper, postage and all the rest of it trying to write salable stories. You might as well try to raise pumpkins on pine trees. The highest order of intelligence is required in such work with the added faculty that must be born in the writer. COMFORT readers with literary aspirations please take notice.

H. S. Farmer, S. Dak.—Encyclopedias range in price from a few dollars to two hundred dollars and up, and a cheap one is often all that the average man wants. We recommend buying as good as you can afford, but an expensive and extensive encyclopedia is too much of a good thing for persons of little reading time and small means. Latest editions of encyclopedias are always expensive, but to the ordinary reader earlier editions answer every purpose and they can be bought at second-hand stores at ridiculously low prices. There should be in every family of fair intelligence a cyclopaedia of some kind, and it should be in daily use by all members of the family. These books contain the world's information and nobody need be wholly ignorant who will read a little in them every day.

J. D. R. Lowry, S. Dak.—We have never heard of anything that would remove skunk odor from clothing or other articles except fire or burial in the earth. It will wear off of the hands or skin in time, and time is the only thing we know of that will kill it. If any COMFORT reader knows of a real deodorizer we wish he would write and tell us what it is.

S. L. D. DeKalb, Ill.—It is quite commendable to adopt a child and we think more people should do it than do, but do not go to the city for them, or any farther away from your own home than possible. Much depends upon what the child is in its breeding and you can learn more of the child's forbears if you get one somewhere near you. You run great risk in any event, but it is less if you will make an intelligent start. Many of the children will be guaranteed by the organization sending them out which lessens the risk materially, but more will not because they have no knowledge on which to base a guarantee.

Mary Jones, Wooster, Ohio.—Before trying to dispose of your old book take it to your city librarian and get an opinion on its value. There are millions of old books for sale and only the fewest of them are worth more than old paper. (2) Cats to have any large value, or any fancy value at all, must have a pedigree. Mere beauty might sell a cat for ten dollars while if a pedigree went with the beauty it might bring a hundred times as much. Persian cats at fifty thousand dollars per cat are few enough to be counted on the fingers of an armless person. (2) President Wilson's appointees are naturally favorable to his brand of politics, but he does not consider his religion at all in making them. Actually, we may say to you that if you asked as many questions of Wooster people as you do of us, you would learn ten times as much because Wooster ranks high as a city of intelligence. Evidently you have not lived there long enough to avail yourself of its well-known advantages.

W. A. R. Richmond College, Va.—Authors do not use shorthand a great deal in their work, but very many of them wish they knew it well enough to do so. We would not advise you to study stenography as thoroughly as though you intended to follow it as a profession, but you will never regret acquiring it sufficiently to use it when needed and it will very often come in most handy when least expected. Besides it is fine mental training, not to mention its virtues as a language study.

Mrs. C. H. Clearfield, Pa.—We think you are right in wanting to raise your children on a farm and though you may be poor, if you will teach your children how to farm properly they will be independent, which is better than being rich but if you let them plow along in the old-fashioned farming methods they will be poorer than you are. Read farm papers, get new ideas and when you have got them don't be afraid to work them to a finish; study not only how best to raise stuff to sell, but what stuff will sell best and learn how to market it at a profit. Send one, at least, of your children to an agricultural school where new things are taught and let him teach all the rest of the family. We know one farmer who makes money on twenty-five acres and two brothers who are positively getting rich on one hundred and fifty acres, but they are not old-fashioned farmers sticking to the plow from sun-up to sun-down. They have learned modern methods and are following them to success. Ask any of your local bankers about the Rural Credit system and get information direct. Keep in touch with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. and don't hesitate a minute to write for any information you want. That's what the department is for and they are glad to help all they can.

Mex., Brighton, Ill.—Mexican bonds, 5s, 1899, are quoted from 45 to 50 cents on the dollar and 4s, 1954 are quoted from 35 to 40 cents. How long it will take

for them to rise, if they ever rise in value no man can tell. They may become worthless. We make not advise you to buy any of them. Any Chicago broker can give you all the information you need. Ask your nearest bank for addresses.

H. A. Aden, Cal.—Just what the demand is at present for foreign missionaries we cannot inform you as COMFORT is not quite in that line, but if you will write to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., making inquiries covering all the information you seek you will be reliably informed on all points. This Board, now 114 years old, is the oldest foreign missionary society in the United States and it has sent out over 3,000 missionaries to all parts of the world. It has organized 673 churches numbering since the beginning, 229,373 members. Its receipts in all have been \$45,488,439, \$1,102,243 of which came in during 1915.

Ruby, Vinton, Iowa.—Whenever you want government assistance, such as in mail routes and other lines, your ever present help in every time of trouble is your Representative in Congress. He is called a Representative because he is there to represent his constituents and if he does not do that properly, his constituents have the power to remove him and substitute a more efficient representative. Don't write to Department officials, but bring all your force to bear on your Congressman and you will get results, if they are gettable, as they sometimes are not. Of course, you don't need COMFORT to tell you who your Representative is.

Miss B. Vinton, N. Y.—If you think you have discovered some new property in any plant, communicate your discovery to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. and ask for information. If it should not be in the Department's line, your letter will be referred to the proper authorities, if you make the request.

S. J. Breese, Ill.—Goodness gracious, where have you been all this time? Of course, George Washington was married. Didn't you ever hear of George and Martha? His mother's name was Mary. Couldn't somebody in Breese have answered your question? (2) The coin was a Captain in a small war with the Blackfeet Indians. His real war record, however, began in 1861. You know what war that was, don't you?

J. S. Murrycross, Ala.—The next census will be taken in 1920.

Spring Trapping

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THE coming of spring means the end of the trapper's work. All winter he has followed the trap line, sometimes pleased and again suffering disappointment, yet after all the occupation has been a healthful one, and profitable as well, if the trapper has been industrious and willing to work.

As winter breaks up in the northern latitudes, animals start to "shed," that is, lose their heavy, fine fur, and as the weather becomes warmer, soon nothing but coarse hair remains.

The muskrat, a water animal, is at its best during the spring months. Trappers turn their attention to trapping this rodent, and some years find that it pays.

The muskrat is found in all parts of the United States, Alaska and Canada. Its home is around the lakes, ponds, marshes, creeks and rivers or any swamp. They live in dens in the banks of the stream with the entrance under water or close to the edge. In the ponds and marshes they build houses out in the water, where it is shallow and oftentimes quite a number occupy the same house.

The musk of the female muskrat makes a very good scent to catch the male. Vegetable foods are best bait for muskrat. Corn, beets, parsnips, apples and the like prove luring.

It is in the spring when meat bait fails. The trapper should be sure to purchase a prepared scent. If you try one firm's without success, keep trying until you run onto the right bait. As soon as you have found a scent that will decoy the muskrat to your trap, the battle is won. A good way to fix a trap in a water-set so as to drown the muskrat is to take a piece of No. 9 wire, five or six feet long. Wire a small stone to one end, slip the ring of the trap over the other end so it will slide down to the rock, which should be placed in deep water, the other end being fastened to the bank by a stake. When the muskrat is caught, he will make a plunge for deep water, sliding the ring to the rock. Have a small loop in the wire close to the rock so the ring will go into it. This prevents him from pulling back to the bank.

In the South and Southwest, furs become very poor early in the spring. March furs show signs of shedding, and are as poor as April caught fur in the North.

The mink is the first animal to show effects of spring. In February, the mink loses the dark, long, silky fur, and becomes faded and coarse. Fur-bearing animals start to run in the early spring. Skunks show up very poorly as soon as warm weather starts and snow is gone.

As soon as the trapper sees he is getting poor fur, that is the time to stop. Do not continue to slay the animals because it is only killing off the fur bearer that another winter may get in your own trap and make good money for you.

Many a trapper, who has kept on when he knew it was too late, felt very badly when he found a female in his trap, be it mink, otter or any other animal, and found she was carrying her young and he had not only slain the mother but had also taken the lives of the little ones. The raccoon in the North retains its heavy coat of fur until far into the spring, and in those states, where the law permits, can be hunted and trapped with profit until very warm, spring weather.

In the far North, fur remains good until far into the spring.

Furs should all be shipped before warm weather comes. Some trappers hold back their furs until May and June. All fur exporters buy raw furs at any time of year, but prefer to get them before the weather gets warm as moths and flies get into them very quickly.

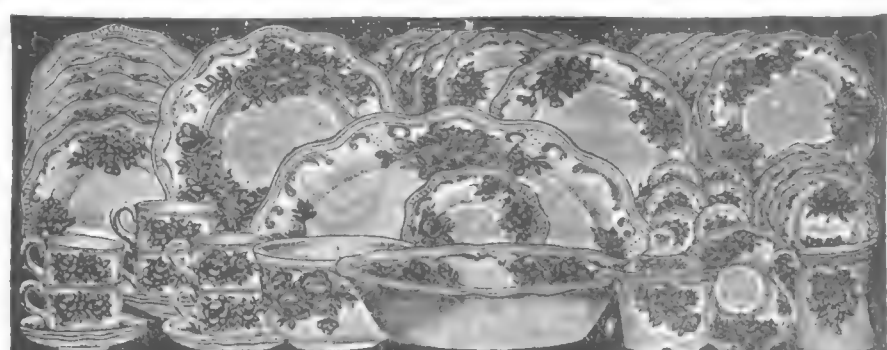
The trapper in the far South is up against the hardest part of the business. He has only a short month or two for trapping. Furs do not get prime in Florida, southern Alabama and southern Mississippi until the middle of December and by February, they are very poor again, due to the warm weather.

Do not forget that in spring trapping, meat bait is virtually worthless without a good scent. In trapping, should you get hold of an animal, still alive, not injured by the trap, you may be able to dispose of the animal alive at a high price.

A great many people are starting farms for the raising of foxes, skunks and other animals. Indeed, in Canada, breeders of the black and silver gray foxes are receiving thousands of dollars for such live animals.

RECIPE FOR GRAY HAIR.

To half pint of water add 1 oz. Bay Rum, a small box of Barbo Compound, and ¼ oz. of glycerine. Apply to the hair twice a week until it becomes the desired shade. Any druggist can put this up or you can mix it at home at very little cost. Full directions for making and use come in each box of Barbo Compound. It will gradually darken streaked, faded gray hair, and removes dandruff. It is excellent for falling hair and will make harsh hair soft and glossy. It will not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy, and does not rub off.—Adv.



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The Most Gigantic Offer Of The Century.
You Need No Money. We Trust You. We Pay Freight.

To gain a wider distribution for our strictly pure, high-grade groceries and family supplies, we now offer ABSOLUTELY FREE, a magnificent embossed, artistically floral decorated, full size

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read your character from your handwriting. Mind you get a good reading that will help you in love, health, business and domestic affairs. Price 10c. Money back if dissatisfied. G. A. Beauchamp, 2583 8th Ave., New York.

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I guarantee what I handle are not Reprints of Confederate Money. Write for price list. Frank J. Shilling, Navarre, Ohio.

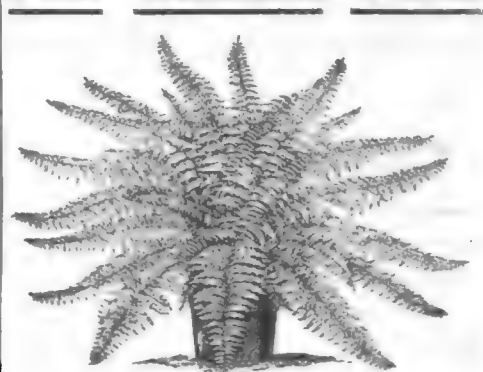
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Fine Camera and complete outfit for selling 20 Large Colored Art & Religious Pictures or 20 plates. Beautiful Post Cards at 10 cents each. Satisfaction guaranteed or money returned. Order your choice today. GATES MFG. CO., Dept. 325 CHICAGO

Four Beautiful Ferns



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PREMIUM NO. 612

BEAUTIFUL charming ferns make the home bright and cheerful. They need but little care and live indefinitely, growing larger and more beautiful year by year. The collection offered you here comprise four of the handsomest, most popular varieties ever grown for home culture. They are the Apparatus Plumeosa or "Lace" fern, the Rosevelt, the Boston or "Fountain" fern and the Whitman or "Ostrich plume" fern. They will thrive in any dwelling room near a window and require almost no attention except a little sprinkling of water now and then. These ferns are guaranteed to be absolutely free from all injurious insects or diseases which destroy foliage plants of this type, and they will be packed carefully and mailed to you by Parcel Post so that you will be sure to receive them in just as good condition as though they were fresh from the greenhouse. We are able to illustrate only one variety, "The Rosevelt," but remember you get all four ferns free on this offer.

For two one-year subscriptions to Club Offer. COMFORT at 25 cents each, or one 3-year subscription (not your own) at 50 cents, we will send you by Parcel Post prepaid the above described collection of four beautiful ferns each one of them a strong, healthy, well rooted plant ready to pot and guaranteed to grow and develop into a fine specimen bush. Premium No. 612.

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(ESTABLISHED 1879)

for Whooping Cough, Spasmodic Croup, Asthma, Sore Throat, Coughs, Bronchitis, Colds, Catarrh.

Don't fail to use Cresolene for the distressing, and often fatal affections for which it is recommended. It is a simple, safe, effective and drugless treatment. Vaporized Cresolene stops the paroxysms of Whooping Cough and relieves Spasmodic Croup at once. The air carrying the antiseptic vapor inspired with every breath, makes breathing easy, soothes the sore throat, and stops the cough, assuring restful nights. Cresolene relieves the bronchial complications of Scarlet Fever and Measles and is a valuable aid in the treatment of Diphtheria. Cresolene's best recommendation is its 37 years of successful use. Send us postal for Descriptive Booklet.

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NEU-TRO Makes Dress Shields Unnecessary, a snow white cream deodorant, reduces perspiration. Agents wanted, write today. **NEU-TRO MFG. CO., CLEVELAND, O.**

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Sells on sight. Instant hit in every home. Smith, Ohio, sold 35 one day. Profit \$19.00. All metal bread and pastry board and rolling pin. Can't rust, absorb dirt or disease germs. Lasts lifetime. Endorsed by Good Housekeeping Institute. Agents get good appointments. Make Big Money.

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SILK WONDERS OF BARGAINS. 4-Pound Bundles of beautiful Silk Remnants for fancy work, quilts, portieres, pillows, etc. SEND 10c for big package of large variety. Agents wanted to sell silk, velvet and other remnants. **UNION S. WORKS, 207 FACTORY ST., BOONVILLE, N. Y.**

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THIS is one of the best bargains we have been able to offer this season. These handsome latest style colored petticoats are made of finest quality mercerized panne satin which has all the sheen and brilliancy of the highest grade satin. They are well made in every respect with finished seams and come in a variety of different dyes of which is shown above, but all of them are popular, up-to-date styles and will surely please the most exacting taste. We have them in colors of green, blue and black, and in sizes from 36 to 44. When ordering be sure to specify size and color wanted.

CLUB OFFER. For a club of six one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25 cents each, or three three-year subscriptions at 50 cents each, we will send you one of these fashionable high-grade panne satin petticoats free by Parcel Post prepaid. Be sure to mention what size and color you desire. Premium No. 7256. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A BEAU tiful neck, face and arms Don't pay 50c. but send 10c. for sealed package which transforms instantly. Look your best in spite of moles, sallowness, blotches, freckles, wrinkles, blackheads, etc. If you want to be charming and attractive order at once. Warranted absolutely harmless. **TOILET COMPOUND CO. Dept. A. Box 1927, Boston, Mass.**



Talks with Girls

Conducted by Cousin Marion

In order that each cousin may be answered in this column, no cousin must ask more than three questions in one month.

HAPPY New Year!! And, listen, my dears, I simply shan't say a thing about any resolutions you are to make or break for 1917. I've been saying things like that for so long and I haven't noticed any difference one way or another, that I have resolved not to mention the subject again. At least, not until 1918, and goodness knows, where any of us will be by that time. All I have to say now is that I wish all of you a New Year so much happier than any previous new year of your experience that 1917 will be your banner year. Now watch me go to work as though the only resolution I knew was a labor resolution.

The first letter I take up is from "Only Tom's" of Ashburham, Mass., and Tom is the hero of the story. I suppose, because it is about a girl and boy, now nineteen and twenty, and they have been loving each other in silence and school for five long years with nothing more definite than that. Now if it were Tom who were asking about it, it would be different, but it is the girl, and if she is only Tom's, I think Tom ought to realize it and claim her. Either Tom is too stupid for any sensible girl to want, or he doesn't care for the girl who thinks she is only his. It is for her to find out which is which for Tom. She might show him this answer to begin with.

Troubled, Raleigh, N. C.—Unless your father can give perfect reasons for objecting to a man with eight hundred acres of good land, and otherwise respectable, I think you would be justified in disregarding the paternal objections. Still, if you don't love the man, and you marry him, that eight-hundred-acre farm will look smaller to you every day until it gets to be almost as small as you were for marrying him.

Ruby, St. Louis, Mo.—He may have been born in Greece, but fifteen years in St. Louis has made just as good an American of him, or should have, as you say you are, and if there is no objection to him except his nationality, you tell your objecting friends that they are very un-American and you will marry the Greek. At the same time don't be too sure of him, as Greeks from ancient times have had a reputation of being somewhat unreliable in love. But most men are so, anyway, so what odds is it?

Blue-eyes, Summerfield, Okla.—If all the wives, who listened to the promises of drinking men and married them thinking they would stop drinking and they did not, could take bands the circle would extend around the earth and lap over a whole lot. If you want to get into that circle disloyal your father and marry this man who promises to quit drinking after he is married. If he will not quit drinking for your sake before he is married he never will after he gets you for his wife. They never, never do. That is too true.

R. R., Fayette, Ala.—The young man is old enough to be sensible and evidently is. He has had every opportunity to meet you and to cultivate your closer acquaintance, but beyond the few friendly courtesies he has extended and you have properly appreciated, he has made no effort to see you, which is the very best evidence that you have not inspired in him any other than the ordinary friendly feeling of one human being for another. If you are wise you will accept the situation as it is and consider him only as any other acquaintance. So far you have acted as the lady and any advances beyond those you have already made will cause the man to lose even his friendly regard for you. He knows what he wants and if he doesn't want you, all you can do to change his mind and heart will be wasted effort. I don't believe two ordinarily intelligent people ever lost each other, unless one of them wanted to be lost. Take my advice and continue doing just what you have been doing.

Minlie, Massillon, Ohio.—When a girl of twenty really wants to love a man who wants to marry her, but she has her doubts, I think, as there is no one else she cares for, that she really loves the man, but doesn't know it. Such cases are not at all uncommon and I have known several very happy marriages which have taken place in just such doubt as troubles you. As you can very well wait a year, do so, or try to, for I think you will marry before the year is out. You have my blessing.

Anxious, Yarbrow, Ark.—Being twenty years old and a schoolmar, ought to be a double source of knowledge, but it does not seem to be because you have not yet learned that the girl who thinks least of finding a young man the young men think most of finding. You have always been popular, as you are, aren't you? Why narrow down to one to command you, when you have them all to command?

A. F., Holland, N. Y.—Really, my dear, I didn't suppose there was a fifteen-year-old girl in the state of New York who could write a letter showing so few signs of the existence of a public school system. Forget the beans and devote yourself to books for three years steady.

M. B. H., Post City, Texas.—There is no more harm in cousins kissing than there is in other people kissing, so long as it is not done to excess.

Four Girls, Osgood, Ind.—Four girls with but a single thought and that thought being, and yet your letters are as well written as though you never heard of a bean. I congratulate the Hoosier school system.

Violet, Katemey, Texas.—By all means do not encourage the young man to forget the girl he is engaged to because her father objects to their marrying. You can be his friend without trying to steal him from his proper owner, can't you? Besides, if you did coax him away, don't you know some other girl could coax him away from you just as easily?

Blue Eyes, Mapleton, Oregon.—If you do not love the man you have promised to marry, you had better break the engagement than break up a home after you have married and started one. As you are wholly unfitted to be anybody's wife now, I advise you to wait four years. Maybe by the time you are twenty-one you will measure more nearly up to marriage as it should be.

Lass, Willard, Ga.—Ordinarily I would not advise a girl of twenty to marry a man twenty years older, but there are so many marriages with the difference in age, or even greater, which have turned out so beautifully, that I have nothing to say in opposition when two people after a thorough understanding and with a sure faith in each other agree to marry and do marry. You have my blessing.

Idalia, Afton, Iowa.—As you quarrel with one about the other, throw him over and take up the other, then quarrel again and exchange again, and do this at intervals of varying frequency. It seems to me that you should obey your father and give up beans until you can manage them better.

Pansy Bloom, Birmingham, Ala.—When a man is thirty he should not dilly-dally about marrying, but should either take the girl, or give her up. Your sweetheart, I think, is indifferent and would rather you found some one to take his place than not, and I am sure you would stop your worrying over the situation if you made up your mind to quit and actually did quit. You say you have plenty of attention and if you have, why bother about this man who wants you to lose him?

Anxious, Petersburg, Va.—Your condition is hopeless and nothing can save you but divine interposition. You are in love with this utterly unworthy young man and whatever he says or does is better in your sight than all the advice that can be given to you. You own a car, you say, but if that car gave you one hundredth part of the trouble by defects as this young man does by his, you would throw it on the junk pile and sue the manufacturers for damages. It's a shame and a pity that you haven't as good a man sense as you have car sense, because if you had, you wouldn't pick up any old thing simply because you thought it was nicer than any other. I have no advice to give you, for advice is wasted on you, my dear. You have my sympathy, though.

D. B., Iola, Fla.—Thank you, Della, for your first letter, but why did you write "I would of asked," in-

stead of writing it properly? Do Iola grammars sanction such a verb as "would of?"

Reader, Columbia, S. C.—I suppose every normal girl has some one star of hope somewhere in the unmeasured spaces of her heart's desire, just as you have, and I don't think she would be normal if she hadn't. As you seem to hover over a pulp and you feel called to become a clergyman's wife, I think you should listen to the call. It isn't every girl who is fitted to be the wife of a preacher and when one believes she is, she should be true to her belief. (2) You have the poetic sense, but you must read a great deal of good poetry and study it before trying to write it for print. You can only judge poor poetry by knowing the best.

There, my dears, your questions are answered and though I have had to be rather scoldy at times, you made me do it by the way some of you act when you ought to know better. Still, I am doing it all for the best and I want to give all of you a good start for the new year. By, by and may 1917 blessings follow you and catch up with you every day.

COUSIN MARION.

Nerine's Second Choice

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4.)

fur-trimmed skirts knocked against her ankles. "You can lend me something, can't you?"

Kit looked with some anxiety at her pretty, brown frock. She had wanted to look well to-night! And what had poor Agatha to lend her that was pretty?

"Poor Agatha," in very truth, had nothing. She turned over her frocks in vain. They were big enough for three such people as Kit. Then she went in despair to the big cedar-lined chest wherein such dresses of her mother's repose as had not been degraded into every-day garments. On the top lay what was formerly called pelisse, made of dark sapphire-blue satin, it was trimmed royally with ermine and lined with white fur. Agatha seized it and returned from her chilly, barn-like chamber to the warm retreat of the guest. Truly, she and Nerine had spent a pound of their money in "things wanted," but wanted only for the comfort of Kit Belton.

"Here, my dear," she cried, holding the sumptuous garment to the fire till the smell of cedar came from its warm folds like incense.

The dead Mrs. Mayne had been, like her daughters, a woman of height and presence. Her tight-fitting outdoor garment was very loose and long for the girl who put it on. Its wide, fur-lined sleeves fell away from Kit's pretty arms, and its ermine collar had to be lapped over at the throat.

"Now shoes! Mine will fall off your feet, but I can't do any better," Agatha said, producing a well-worn pair of satin slippers long her "best." Kit laughed as she slipped her feet into the cheery glow of the ancient garments. Her throat was whiter than the ermine, her deep eyes bluer than the satin of the pelisse. And her shoes could be hidden.

Agatha, the economical, extinguished the sinful luxury of wax candles and led the way once more through the tortuous passages back to the one room in Lisperard House where she and Nerine spent their waking lives.

The table was drawn up beside the fire. The cold chicken had a place of honor, while the smiling Jane took the cover off the mound of mashed potatoes browned to a turn. The brass tea kettle sang cheerily on the hob. The lamp with the apricot jam and the dotted cream seemed begging to be eaten, and the royally-robed guest had a royal appetite after her long day in the train.

"We will wait on ourselves, Jane," Nerine said, gracefully, ignoring with delightful calm the fact that Jane knew no more of waiting than of playing the violin, "and you must go down to the station and tell them to send up Miss Belton's boxes."

Jane, all eagerness to inform her "young man" that her master's absence would nullify for a month the decree of "no followers," dropped a courtesy and retired. The hostess and the guest applied themselves with the zest of youth to chicken and potatoes, to hot cakes and tea.

Mr. Mayne would have wrung his hands at seeing any human being so trifle with his digestion, but then Mr. Mayne was miles on his road to Dover.

There was a certain strangeness about the little group seated round the table in the corner by the fire. The room so bare, white walled, black beamed; the huge fireplace, the wide, white hearth, the ancient leather-covered chairs high in the back, low in the legs.

Kit surveyed the sisters over her last cup of tea in silence.

"You are more alike than ever," she said at last. "But you look so grand! So old, somehow!" They really were a stately pair, black haired, gray-eyed, creamy-skinned, with small, round waists and long limbs. As like to the dead Lisperards as to each other.

"Old!" cried Nerine. "We are twenty, while Mr. Mayne is away. When he is here we are forty-six, if you like. Anxious, suspicious, nagged at, we get fresh wrinkles every day."

"We are a little more than a year older than you—and Maurice," Agatha said, in a matter-of-fact way. "You haven't ever asked about Maurice, Kit."

"No. How is he?" Very slowly into Kit's cheeks came a maddening color. She felt it deepening, burning. "I heard from him the other day," she added, hesitatingly, not looking at the sisters.

Heard from him? Read, instead, had stood in a country lane with him—had let the winter rain stream down on her unheeded. Mindful only of strong young arms about her, kisses from smooth, unmasturbed young lips on her cheeks.

"When? How was he?" the twins cried in a breath.

Maurice was their nursing, their all-in-all, and they had no letter from him for a fortnight.

"Last week," today being Monday, Saturday the date of that secret tryst in the rain. "He didn't say how he was," truthfully, "but I fancy he was very well." Remembering the browned, strong face, so manly for his nineteen years, the masterful lips and words of that young lover who had walked fifteen miles each way to meet her.

"I wish he could come over," Agatha said, wistfully. "But it only means his losing time, and he hates it here. The old man's meanness nearly kill Maurice. We"—laughing—"are much more tough."

"What was that?" cried Kit.

She leaped from her seat at the table and stood trembling like a leaf.

Clang! Clang!

Two heavy strokes from a brazen-throated, iron-tongued bell struck, paused and echoed through the great empty house.

Kit's nerve was not at its best. She grew pale and cold.

Clang!

Nerine jumped from her chair.

"The old bell!" she cried. "Who can be ringing it? Who knows where it is but ourselves—and Mr. Mayne?"

In answer, the bell began to swing regularly to and fro.

"Come, Agatha—come and see!"

Nerine lighted a candle and hurried out of the room, shielding her feeble light as she ran. Agatha quickly followed her.

What if Mayne had returned?

As they vanished in the chilly passage, the bell, with one final reverberation, stopped.

It was as old as the house and unused for years. To get at its dust-clogged, spider-webbed bell rope you pushed back a tiny panel in the old porch. Kit had never known that it existed.

She stood a statue of fear, her eyes big and wide. For Kit was a coward, an arrant and hopeless one, and the three girls were alone in the house. Terrors of burglars and murderers appalled her; chill, supernatural stories crowded to her mind; ghostly thoughts turned her cold. If no one knew of that bell but the girls and Mr. Mayne, and he was on his way to France and they safely in this room, what mortal hand could have rung it?

She stopped her ears. At least if it rang she would not hear it.



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Her yellow hair against the lamplight made a halo round her head. Her wide sleeves had fallen back from her upraised arms. She stared at the black void passage through the open door.

Some one hurried along it—a man's hasty, thick-shod feet drew nearer. Kit shut her eyes. This was not velvet-footed Clarence Mayne!

At the door the newcomer paused; he tried to speak, but only made an inarticulate sound of pure delight. But it was enough for Miss Belton. "Maurice!" she shrieked.

She tried to run across the room to him in Agatha's shoes, which were so big for her little feet. They came off; the long gown tripped her. Maurice Lisperard made a spring and caught her to him.

"Dearest, dearest Kit!" he said.

She had really been horribly frightened, and there had been a strain on her nerves all day. What with getting away from a reluctant mother, evading Mr. Mayne, secretly expecting Maurice, whom, after all, she had never connected with that awful ghostly bell. She clung to him all unnerved. For one instant!

Agatha and Nerine's voices came before them up the passage. Kit pushed Maurice's eager hands and smooth, cool face away angrily—ungratefully.

"What on earth do you mean," she demanded, "by coming and frightening us all like this?"

"But you knew I was coming," he replied, rather staggered.

"I didn't know you were ringing that horrid bell," artfully clasping her hands over her fearful heart. "I nearly died of fright! I thought you were a burglar come to murder me!" she declared in that tragic voice in which we are wont to speak of our own death. "Why couldn't you have rung the ordinary door bell?"

"I did; but considering that there were no servants in the house, that you were all in here boxed up, and"—with a significant glance at the table—"gormandizing, old Mayne's electric tinkle didn't make much impression. I was about tired of cooling myself in the delightfully reasonable weather."

Agatha and Nerine came in at this instant, transfigured from the warlike Amazons who had gone to investigate the unseemly summons of the bell.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31.)

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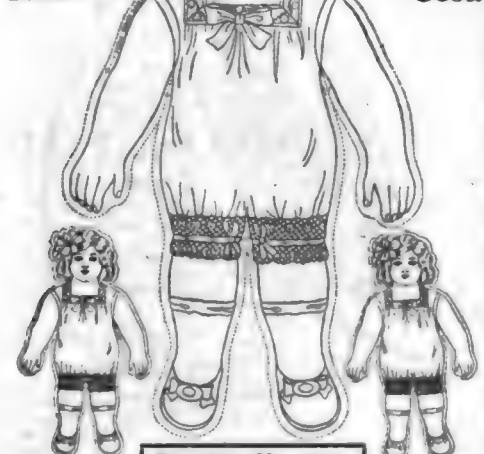
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Manners and Looks



"Virtus itself offends when coupled with forbidding manners."—Bishop Middleton.

In order to meet the demand for information made by COMFORT subscribers on the kindred subjects of Manners and Personal Appearance, this column will be devoted to them, and all questions will be answered, but no inquirer shall ask more than two questions each month. We would suggest to readers to cut this column out and paste it in a scrap book. Address letters to Etiquette Editor, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

T. and T. Montrose, Colo.—If the young man who comes to see you needs to be entertained more than to be in your company and to talk with you, he is not any kind of a young man to go to see a girl. If you have no musical instruments in the house and both of you together can't entertain each other in conversation, you might try a game of checkers, or backgammon, or pingpong, or bridge, or some one of those pleasant parlor games which are used to pass the tedious time away. (2) When a couple returns from an entertainment that one which feels the more grateful for favors should thank the other. Really, though, the lady should thank the gentleman as the courtesy comes from him, but the thanks should not be formal as though he had passed her the pie at dinner. (3) Young ladies who are so sensitive, or so silly, as to feel embarrassed at a correct advertisement on the screen should only go to the movies with their parents. Newspaper and magazine reading young ladies see so much of that sort of advertising they never notice it at all, or if they do, they learn what they can from it to guide them in their next purchases. The average intelligent, decent young man, if he notices it at all, speaks of it merely as a business matter. (4) The gentleman, in going with the lady, gives her a box of candy she should open it and offer it to him.

Juliana, Chicago, Ill.—You should, Miss Juliana, have more of the spirit of Pollyanna—Chicago knows Pollyanna by now, doesn't it?—and instead of waiting for others to bring joy to you, you should bring joy to them. You see, you are expecting people to do things for you, when the happy way is to do things for them. The big city is not the little town and city people are any of each other unless they are encouraged not to be. Now if you want friends, don't stand back for them to come to you, but having chosen such as you feel you will like, seek them in a nice, friendly manner and you will nearly always find they will be glad enough to meet you half-way because generally they want friends just as you do. Never try to go where you are not wanted and you will never be rebuffed. Too many young people who go to the city want to start in at the top and that is no starting place. That is the stopping place. The safest and sanest course is to identify yourself with some leading church organization and gain recognition among its members by your activity and usefulness in its work. You don't have to be goody-goody, but good.

Blue Eyes, Bristol, W. Va.—It would have been quite improper for you to have asked the young man you had just met to call. The mother of a fifteen-year-old girl is the proper person to invite young men to call at her house.

Jolly Kid, Arlington, Ohio.—If you are really good looking and the young man told you you were, you could do as you please about considering him a gentleman and accepting the compliment. But if you were not good looking and he told you you were, then by all means consider him a gentleman and accept the compliment with a grateful heart.

Broken-hearted, Attalla, Ala.—You are not the only wife whose domestic happiness has been wrecked by the interference of her husband's people and as he is too weak to go away with you to some place where you could be free of them, we think, as you have no children, that it would be better if you went alone and made your living at whatever you could do best. You love each other and when he had learned that he could not have you and his people too, he would leave his people and come to you. It is at least worth trying and no disgrace would attach to you if you remained true to him and made your life an example for him to follow.

E. M. D., Winchester, Ill.—As a matter of manners as well as of morals your duty to yourself and society is to have no more to do with the young man. He has proved himself unworthy in more ways than one and your self-respect should prompt you to recognize him no longer. You say you do not care for him, and we say you care more for him than you do for yourself or you would not be worrying over him.

Perplexed, Wenatchee, Wash.—The rule is that the gentleman walk on the outside of the sidewalk, because there he serves as a sort of protection to the lady from the street traffic. But the rule is not rigorous and unless there is actual necessity for him to take the outside he does not. "Changing gears"—as you aptly put it—at every change of sidewalk is annoying and should not be done. The best manners are not those made by stiff rules and regulations and the people who depend upon conventions to the exclusion of common sense have the least attractive manners. P. S. You ask us to use the name "Perplexed," but why not "Perplexed," as we have spelled it?

Mrs. B., Dubuque, Iowa.—You are over-conscientious and want to do ten times as much harm trying to do what you think is right than if you let the matter remain as it is. The old lady who found the ten dollars and turned it into Christmas gifts for the poor may have been over-scrupulous in good works and probably she should have hunted up the owner of the money and nobody would have got any good of it. As you and other needy persons knowing nothing of how she got the money, benefited by it and nobody was harmed, we think, any effort now, after years, to find the owner and restore what little you received is extremely foolish and can only do harm to the memory of the kind old lady. We almost feel like classing you with the underserving poor and will, if you persist in your folly.

Two Chums, Asheville, N. C.—There is no set time for the giving of an engagement ring after the engagement has been made, and there should be no rushing hurry about it, but the man should be ready to give the girl the ring whenever she wants it, if he assumes a right that he is the one to say when the ring should be given he is making a mistake and the sooner it is shown to him the better. (2) An engaged girl should not accept the attentions of any other man, or men, except with the knowledge and consent of the man who has an established claim upon her. If he does not object, nobody else has a right to.

Blue Eyes, Berlin, Wis.—Judging from the grammar and spelling of your letter we should say it was the height of impropriety for you to quit school. We hope the music you are taking will not sound like your letter does. It is proper to go to dancing school, but we think your head rather than your heels needs educating.

E. C., Manes, Mo.—"Vura" sounds to us like a girl's name, but it is one of those genderless names which agrees with any nominative that gets it. Some good names for girls are Judith, Ruth, Malva, Dorothy, Content, Prudence, Beatrice, Beulah, Fairfax, Elizabeth, Ethel, Freda, and names made up of other names and places, thus giving originality as well as other attractive qualities. We know a girl named Edna for an Uncle Edward, there being no boy in the family to take his name. And a boy named William, for his father, William, and the mother, Mary.

Two Brown Eyes, Coaling, N. C.—Not one of the three things you ask us is "proper." Neither is the way you spell it. Try again.

Troubled Wife, Red Springs, Texas.—If as you say, you really love your husband as no woman ever loved her husband, it must be rather a peculiar love, or you would not be finding fault so seriously with him that you ask us if you should separate from him. Love like yours ought to find some other way to happiness than by giving up your husband. Think about your five month old baby and see if you can't do better than separation.

Rainbow, Sand Patch, Pa.—Every now and again in all parts of the country some young man becomes the object of adoration of some silly girl and life thereafter is a burden of joy to him. You are in that class and the girl will not give you a moment's peace unless you snub her outrageously, or pack up your duff and move to parts unknown until she recovers her senses. Most people look upon it as a joke, but it is anything but that to the man, and to the girl it is a matter for the attention of alienists, or experts in mental disorders. The only answer to your other questions about silly girls is that the Lord made them that way. Young men are just as silly, but it doesn't seem to be quite so objectionable in them.

Chums, Shobuta, Miss.—As both of you distrust the young man who are courting you, why not discard them and get trustworthy ones as substitutes? There can be no lasting love unless there is perfect trust.

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You may say that, too—if you want more income. Easy to learn. Steady work at home the year around. Send 2c stamp for information. Write today to Auto-Knitter Hosiery Co., Inc., Dept. 96-W, 147 Franklin Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

FREE GRAY HAIR RESTORED TO ITS NATURAL COLOR

Not an experiment but an absolute success. Rhodes' Hair Restorer will positively restore gray and faded hair to its original color, youthful beauty and rich lustre. It is a scalp and hair food that cures dandruff and all scalp humors. Nourishes the roots of the hair and makes it grow luxuriantly. Harmless and undetectable. It is not a dye and will not stain the skin or linen. It cures itching and sore scalps.

MAKES HAIR GROW

Let us convince you. Send 5 cents in postage for free trial bottle, book on the Care of the Hair, etc. Large bottle \$1.00, express prepaid. Address the hair and scalp specialists.
A. T. RHODES & CO., LOWELL, MASS.

ALL THESE FREE

Gold plated Look-alike with im. Diamond and 22-inch Neckchain, one Gold finished Signet Extension Bracelet, 6s any arm, and these 4 beautiful Rings ALL GIVEN FREE for selling only 15 pieces of our Jewelry at 50c each. Write today.
COLUMBIA NOVELTY CO. DEPT. 38, EAST BOSTON, MASS.

Genuine Gold-Filled Birthstone Rings

Each Ring Absolutely Guaranteed For Five Years!



You May Have Your Choice For A Club Of Two!

The most popular lady's rings worn today are these beautiful birthstone rings. Not only is it considered lucky to wear one of them but they are now and always will be exceedingly stylish. There is a different stone for each month of the year and of course you should wear the stone that is symbolical of the month you were born. The following is a list of the twelve rings, names of the stones, the month to which each one applies and its symbol.

January, The Garnet, Symbol of Power.
February, The Amethyst, Symbol of Pure Love.
March, The Bloodstone, Symbol of Courage.
April, The Diamond, Symbol of Purity.
May, The Emerald, Symbol of Immortality.
June, The Agate, Symbol of Health and Long Life.
July, The Ruby, Symbol of Charity.
August, The Sardonyx, Symbol of Happiness.
September, The Sapphire, Symbol of Constancy.
October, The Opal, Symbol of Hope.
November, The Topaz, Symbol of Friendship.
December, The Turquoise, Symbol of Prosperity.

Each ring is guaranteed genuine 12-Karat gold filled which looks exactly like solid gold and will wear for years. In fact we absolutely guarantee each ring for at least five years. The rings themselves are perfectly plain, the stones are solitaires and perfect imitations of the real gems. The setting of each ring is the ever popular "Tiffany". As a Christmas, Birthday or all-the-year-round gift for wife, mother, sweetheart or sister nothing could be more appropriate and acceptable than one of these beautiful guaranteed rings set with the birthstone of the person to whom it is given. And not only the women and girls but men and boys as well are now wearing them.

Please do not miss these rings with the cheap "electroplated" rings that turn brassy after they have been worn a month or two. Remember that every one of them is guaranteed to be 12-Karat gold-filled and positively warranted for five years. If you want a handsome birthstone ring for yourself or some dear friend or relative you will make no mistake in taking advantage of this offer at once. When ordering be sure to specify the size and number of ring wanted. You can easily tell just what size ring you wear by following the directions below.

BE SURE TO SEND YOUR RING SIZE!

RING MEASURE

By using the above diagram you can tell exactly what size ring you wear if you will follow these directions: Put a stiff piece of paper around the second joint on your ring finger. Cut the paper off so that when drawn tight around your finger the ends exactly meet. Then lay the paper flat on the diagram, one end at the line O and the other end will indicate correct size. By following these instructions your ring will be a perfect fit.

Club Offer!

FOR two one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25c, each, or one three-year subscription (not year own) at 80c, we will send you one of these beautiful gold-filled birthstone rings by parcel post prepaid. Please be sure to give size and number of ring wanted.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

26-Piece Daisy SILVER SET

Premium No. 6806

Sent To You Prepaid For A Club Of Six

WE have in the past made many offers of table ware, but this is the first time we have ever been able to offer a complete set of 26 Pieces in return for such a small club of subscriptions. And please don't think that because we are giving away this set on such liberal terms that it is plated on a brass base and consequently will change color and have that "brassy" look just as soon as the plating wears off. This set which we offer you here is plated on a white metal base therefore each and every piece is the same color all the way through and will not show signs of wear, even after years of constant use. As shown in the above illustration there are 26 pieces in this set—6 Knives, 6 Forks, 6 Teaspoons, 6 Tablespoons, 6 Sugar Shells, and 6 Butter Knives. Each piece is full regulation size for family use, the handles are hand-somely embossed and decorated with the beautiful Daisy design which is now so popular and the blades of the knives and the bowls of the teaspoons and tablespoons are perfectly plain and bright polished.

WARRANTED FOR FIVE YEARS

It is only because we buy this set in large quantities direct from the factory that we are able to secure it at a price that enables us to offer it as a premium for so few subscriptions. It is by far the greatest value we have ever offered, in fact we are so sure that it will please and satisfy all who accept this offer we are going to guarantee every set sent out for a period of five years. We will send this beautiful 26-Piece Daisy Set exactly as illustrated and described to any address upon the terms of the following special Club Offer.

For a club of six one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25 cents each, or three 3-year subscriptions at 50 cents each, we will send you this 26-Piece Daisy Table Set Free by Parcel Post prepaid. Premium No. 6806.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Children's Happy Hour

Martha's Kitten

Copyright, 1916, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher, Inc.

THE hair on Martha's kitten is so crumpled and fluffy that it seems the name "Rags" fits it exactly. It likes to play in the clothes basket and climb up the curtains and sit on grandma's chair and do other naughty things but it has one trick that makes it liked by everyone. It can find lost articles, even in the dark. If you drop a needle or a pin or a coin on the floor, all you have to do is to put Rags searching and the first thing you know you will have it again. No wonder Martha likes her so well.

Once, when the whole family went on a picnic Martha cried because they would not let her take Rags along. Her mother was firm however, and the child had to give in.

Every summer Martha goes to visit her Aunt May who lives in another city. Last month Aunt May's only daughter was married and Martha went there for the wedding. She had two new dresses for the occasion and two hats to match as you can see by the picture.

How to take Rags with her, was a problem, for the railroad men do not allow kittens on a train. If the poor pussy stayed at home there would be no one to take care of her for the whole family was going to make the trip. The only scheme Martha could think of was to pack Rags in a basket and cover her up. They only had to ride three hours and surely a kitten could keep quiet for that long. She managed it all right but several times Rags meowed and Martha had to sing to drown out the sound. At last they arrived but the child was horrified to learn that her aunt had a bulldog that hated cats. You may be sure Martha locked her pet carefully in an

up-stairs room and kept a good watch on the bulldog.

Everything was noise and excitement that day. Young and old romped on the lawn and played games but towards evening there was a sudden stop to the merrymaking and the word went round that the bride had lost her diamond ring. This was bad news indeed. With tense faces everyone began to search and not an inch of the whole big grounds was neglected. Alas, it was all in vain. The bride was trying to control her feelings but when darkness started to fall and the ring seemed lost beyond hope, she broke down and cried bitterly.

Martha felt very sorry for her and longed to be of some help. Like a flash, the thought came to her that perhaps Rags might be able to find the ring. Rushing up-stairs she carried the kitten down and set her loose in the long grass, explaining as best she could that she wanted her to search for something. Rags seemed to understand and began scratching around. Suddenly pussy arched her back and raced like fury for a tree. The bulldog was after her and she beat him only by inches to her perch in the fork of the limbs.

Martha screamed and told the older folks what she was trying to make the kitten do.

The dog was locked up and then a man held Martha up high while she coaxed Rags down. She was sitting there with something in her paws and our little friend yelled with joy when she saw what it was, for sure enough, it was the lost ring. Oh, how happy everyone was. Martha was proud of her kitten but it will never be known exactly how that ring got up in the tree. Maybe Rags carried it up, maybe the girl, in tossing a ball, threw it up there herself. The kitten is the only one that knows and she, alas, cannot tell.



Cut-Out Doll Directions

Paste the entire picture on a piece of cardboard (using boiled flour paste) and smooth, with the hands from the center towards the edges. Put it in a large book to dry and let it remain there at least three hours. Cut out each doll, dress and hat with scissors and color them with crayons, chalk or water colors. The front and back of the doll are pasted together to form one figure. The front and back views of each

of the two hats are also pasted together. To put the hat on, slit them on the dotted line, and press down over head. The dresses are joined at the dotted line and fit down over head and shoulders. The little flaps are bent in and pasted together. To make this double doll stand bend the base strip back at the ends to form a corner or angle. Tell Uncle John if you like this kind of a double doll the best.

Comfort's League of Cousins

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23.)

built up. I suppose you know if a baby is not properly nourished, its bones become soft and pliable, owing to the absence of lime in its food. It is just the same with the human brain. It has got to be fed properly or it becomes a tank of mush, and its possessor a menace to society. Now try and arrange your recreation and joy riding so that your brain and soul may receive attention, so that you may have so much outdoor exercise, so much pleasure and so much mental food, and mental food of the right kind. Don't let anything conquer you. If you find you are getting too fond of any one thing, shut down on it. Keep a stiff grip on the help of your ship of life. Don't let the waves of pleasure run you on the rocks, or the winds of vice blow you to damnation. Develop character. It is the greatest thing in the world, it is the pendulum of the spirit and the anchor of the soul. It is the lack of it that sweeps millions of pleasure loving moths into the scorching flames of loose, aimless, senseless, godless living flames which if they do not destroy, utterly and eternally mar. Be temperate and moderate, that is the only way to enjoy anything for excess soon kills, soon kills. Enough is as good as a feast. Two thousand years ago the Romans after gorging themselves with a score or so of courses at one of their sumptuous banquets, forced their fingers down their throats, so as to eject all they had eaten, and thus make room for more. Can you imagine what a revolting sight that was? And yet the nobles of Rome and their grand ladies indulged in those filthy practices and thought it perfectly correct. We are not quite as bad as that today, but we could very easily fall as low if we did not take a grip on ourselves. So once more don't neglect your church even for the best limousine on earth. Don't neglect your books, nor your work, nor those who have a claim on your time and attention for mere pleasure. There is more

joy in the higher and loftier things of life than in the grosser and more sensual things. You may not realize this now, but some day you will, and realize it probably when it is too late. Take a leaf out of Alvin's book. Here is a boy who is apparently trying to live a well-regulated life. Go thou and do likewise.

League Shut-in and Mercy Work for January

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Written references from postmaster or physician must positively accompany all appeals from shut-ins. Appeals unaccompanied by written references will be destroyed.

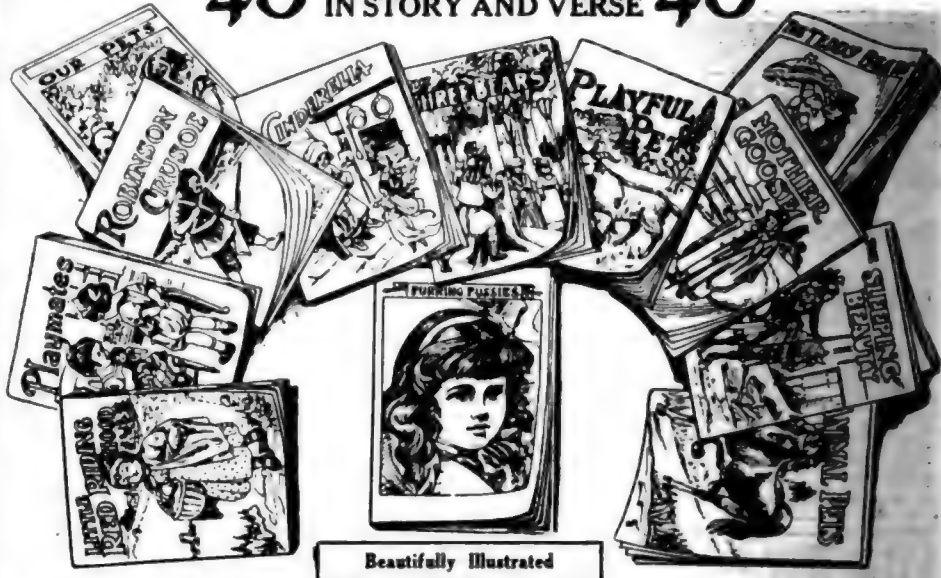
L. R. Tinsley, 1645 Washington Ave., Huntington, W. Va. Has broken back. Has wife and one child. His wife tries to earn sufficient for the family, but it is an impossible task. Very worthy and very sad case. Give them a helping hand. James Wortham, Beebe, Ark. Crippled for thirty-three years. Unable to work. Needy case. Send him a dime shower. Miss Amanda Hamner, Kingsville, R. R. 24, Mo. Has consumption. No means of support. Send this suffering soul some help. Mrs. Mary Stafford, Arkwright, Ala. Widowed. Crippled with rheumatism, for nearly nine years. Would appreciate quilt pieces, of any kind, and any assistance you care to send her. Miss Fannie Singleton, Norwood, N. C., thirty-four years of age. Crippled from rheumatism for twenty-two years. Tries to support herself by sewing but finds the task beyond her. Highly recommended. Send her some cheer. Eli S. Caslor, Townsend, R. R. 1, Box 72, Tenn. Invalid for many years. Almost blind. Send him some of the sympathy that buys bread. Mrs. A. C. Hottinger, Thornville, R. R. 5, Ohio. Redridden invalid. Helpless, poor and needy. Send her a greenback shower. Fulton R. Lowe,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 33.)

Comfort's Bedtime Stories For Little Folks!

A Library of Cute Little Books

40 WONDERFUL TALES IN STORY AND VERSE 40



Beautifully Illustrated

Library of 12 Sent For One Subscription!

The stories of our childhood—how well we remember them. After all it seems but a short time since we listened with rapt attention to the adventures of Robinson Crusoe cast away on his lonely island—of beautiful Cinderella, the fairy and the prince—the tragic fate of poor little Red Riding Hood—these were only a few of the marvelous tales that thrilled our childish imagination and helped us spend many blissful hours.

The children of today are the same as they were fifty years ago. And these good old-time stories are just as popular with the young folks now as they were then. So we have decided to give our little boy and girl friends a fine big collection of these stories including some of the old-time favorites as well as a number of newer and later books equally as interesting. We have arranged three different sets or "libraries", each library consisting of twelve books, no two alike, and you can have your choice of any one library, or two libraries, or all three libraries. Library No. 7991 comprises the following twelve titles:

Robinson Crusoe, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Mother Goose, Animal Pets, Purring Pussies, Playmates, Our Pets, The Three Bears, The Sleeping Beauty, Playful Pets, The Teddy Bears.

Library No. 7991 has these twelve titles:

The Shepherd and His Sheep, Young America, The Deep Blue Sea, Land of Tulips, Rex and Rover, Our Farm Yard, Little Darlings, Childhood of Hiawatha, Faithful Friends, The Fancy Dress Party, Our Country, Happy Days.

Library No. 8001 consists of these twelve titles: Little Sweethearts, The Story of Little Piggie Wig, In The Jungle, The Big League, Doggie Doling, Fred's Feathered Friends, Uncle Jerry's Farm, Chums, The Story of Santa Claus, Little Laddies, Pussies' Pranks, Faithful And True.

As these stories are intended for the younger children some of them have been "boiled down" to the fewest and simplest words so that they are not as complete as the original editions, but all of them are printed on fine paper in large clear type that is easy to see and read and have no less than five beautiful full page illustrations in colors.

Some of the titles named above of course need no introduction. The other titles are just the sort of stories

that delight every child—stories of childish sports, flowers, the sea, Indians, animal pets, horses, donkeys, dogs, bunnies, pussy cats, chickens, lambs, etc., wonderful romances in which there are old Stone Castles, Kings, Queens, Princes, Princesses, Good Fairies, and Wicked Fairies, stories of the Bear Family—Pa Bear, old Ma Bear and little "Teddy" Bear, stories of little Playmates, the true tale of the Teddy Bears—in fact the finest collection of juvenile short stories ever published. Each book is nicely bound with a handsomely illustrated cover in colors and is 4 inches by 5 1/2 inches in size.

There is nothing you could get for the children that would make them any happier than one or more of these cute libraries and best of all it will cost you nothing as we are giving them away as a premium. We will send you free your choice of any one, two, or all three libraries—each library consisting of twelve stories, each story in a book by itself, twelve different books in all—on the terms of the following special offers:

Offer A. For one one-year subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25 cents each, we will send you any one library of twelve books by parcel post prepaid. Be sure to mention number of library wanted.

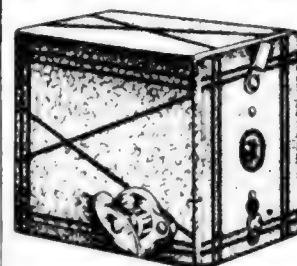
Offer B. For your own subscription or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 25 cents and 10 cents additional (35 cents in all) we will send you any one library by parcel post prepaid. Be sure to mention number of library wanted.

Offer C. For two one-year subscriptions at 25 cents each, or one 3-year subscription (not your own) at 50 cents we will send you any two libraries, or for three one-year subscriptions at 25 cents each, we will send you all three libraries, parcel post prepaid. Don't forget to give number or numbers of libraries wanted.

Extra Gift For Promptness! If you will send three subscriptions and 75 cents for all three libraries within 15 days we will send you four extra books absolutely free. This will give you one grand complete library of forty of these splendid little books, all different titles of uniform size and binding, handsomely printed and illustrated in colors. Premium No. 7303

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

PREMO CAMERA



Premium No. 7314

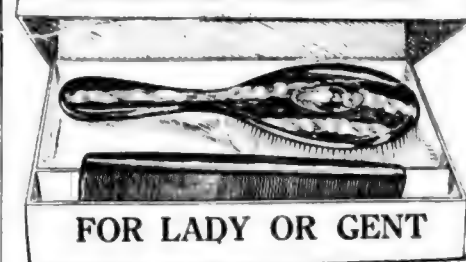
For a Club of Four!

We will also include free of charge one Six Exposure Roll Film Cartridge and a complete instruction book. This is the

well-known "Premo" camera, made by the Eastman Kodak Co., therefore you can depend upon it to produce the most pleasing and satisfactory results. It takes a picture 1 1/4 by 1 3/4 inches, is fitted with the best quality Meniscus lens and an automatic shutter adapted for snap shots at time exposures. The pictures may be taken either the long way or the short way of the camera. It uses the regulation roll film cartridge containing six exposures, and this may be put in the camera and taken out again in broad daylight, so that you don't have to go into a dark room every time you want to load the camera. Anybody can make good pictures with this camera. Being small and compact it is just the thing to carry with you to "snap" pictures of your friends, sports, etc., with. And remember, we send you not only the camera itself but also include One Six Exposure Roll Film Cartridge and instruction book, all packed together in a strong box and sent to you Free by Parcel Post, prepaid, on the terms of the following special

Club Offer. For a club of four one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25 cents each, or two 3-year subscriptions at 50 cents each, we will send you by Parcel Post, prepaid, this Premo Camera with one Roll Film Cartridge containing six exposures and complete instruction book. Premium No. 7314. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

COMB AND BRUSH SET



FOR LADY OR GENT

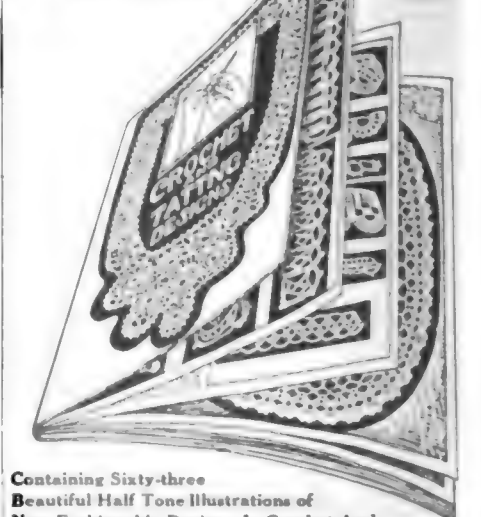
Premium No. 2622

THERE has been no Premium offer in years that has been as pleasing to our friends as this new Comb and Brush Set. The great beauty of this latest style dark green or Malachite finish on the back of brush with the SILVERLINE shield for engraving initial or monogram has made this set one of the best as a present for birthday, wedding or any special occasion. The brush is nine inches long over 1 1/2 inches wide with splendid firm white bristles well fastened and should last for years. The Comb is black, seven inches long and one and one half inches wide with coarse and fine teeth. For two one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25 cents each or one 3-year subscription (not your own) at 50 cents we will send this Set Free by parcel post prepaid. Premium No. 2622. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Crochet and Tatting Book

Given for One Subscription

Premium No. 7321



Containing Sixty-three Beautiful Half Tone Illustrations of New Fashionable Designs in Crochet and Tatting With Complete Instructions for Making.

EVERY woman who is interested in crocheting and tatting should have a copy of this new book written by Winifred Worth and containing many designs used by the nuns in convents now published for the first time. The book is of good size, measuring 5 inches by 10 1/2 inches, printed on fine quality coated book paper and consists of 28 pages on which are shown sixty-three, large, clear half-tone illustrations, with full and explicit directions for crocheting the prettiest edgings, beadings, insertions, towel ends, dollies, etc., besides a splendid variety of new, dainty designs in tatting with the necessary instructions. The art of combining Venetian crochet and tatting is fully explained.

This book also gives sizes of hooks best adapted for the different sizes of crochet threads, the abbreviations of all of the principal crochet stitches and terms used in tatting and tells how the different stitches are made such as the chain stitch, double crochet, half treble, double treble, treble crochet, cluster and open mesh stitches. Among the many crochet edgings, beadings, and insertions illustrated and described are the "lover leaf, Irish, picot, cross-bar, half-shell, half-wheel, K-stitch and filet edgings; festoon, Irish, fence-row, picot and shell beadings; mile-a-minute, half-shell, clover leaf, filet and monkey-face insertions; butterfly wings, Van Dyke Point, nuna" pattern and many others. The tatting motifs are varied and beautiful, consisting of beadings, edgings and insertions for table mats, bedspreads, curtains, guest towels, coin-purses, nightgown yokes, bath towels, wash cloths, ribbons, holders, plate dollies, etc., etc.

We will send you free and postpaid this book of the loveliest fashions in beautiful lace work with simple and complete directions which you can easily follow upon the terms of the following special offer.

Offer No. 7321A. For one one-year subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25 cents, we will send you this book of crocheting and tatting designs with directions free by mail postpaid.

Offer No. 7321B. For your own subscription or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 25 cents and 10 cents additional (35 cents in all), we will send you this crocheting and tatting book free by mail postpaid. Premium No. 7321. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

November Prize Winners

The eighteen contestants whose names appear below have been paid the November Monthly Cash Prize. All of them who win a December Cash Prize will be paid double the amount of that prize whatever it may be. The names of the December Prize Winners will be printed in February COMFORT.

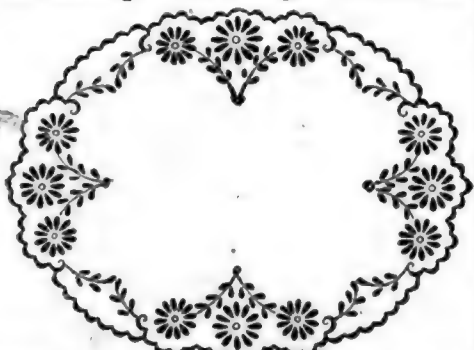
Mrs. H. E. Logan, Texas.	1st Prize	\$30.00
Mrs. T. S. Strong, Iowa.	2nd "	20.00
Mrs. G. N. Baillio, La.	3rd "	10.00
Mrs. Lois Morris, Missouri.	4th "	5.00
Mrs. Anna Daniel, Tenn.	5th "	5.00
Mrs. Lawrence E. Gordon, Va.	6th "	5.00
Mrs. A. E. Deenie, Tenn.	7th "	3.00
Hanson L. Yates, Calif.	8th "	3.00
Lewis F. Falls, Tenn.	9th "	3.00
James E. McCready, Pa.	10th "	3.00
H. G. Christenson, Minn.	11th "	2.00
Mrs. Eva Haynes, Tenn.	12th "	2.00
Hannie Hanson, Calif.	13th "	2.00
Robert C. A. Farnoffe, Conn.	14th "	2.00
Mrs. Wm. Hall, Ill.	15th "	2.00
Agnes Wynia, Iowa.	16th "	2.00
Mrs. Florence Tuell, N. Y.	17th "	2.00
Mrs. Glenna Osborne, N. Y.	18th "	2.00

Remember that each Monthly Cash Prize contest is separate and distinct from another and has a separate list of Cash Prizes which we pay promptly at the end of each month. Then at the close of the contest April 30, 1917, we shall award the Grand Prizes, a complete set of which is given in our announcement printed on another page.

Every Monthly Cash Prize you win helps you win one of the Grand Prizes. The Monthly Cash Prizes and Grand Prizes are extra and in addition to your premiums. You are sure of a premium for every club or in place of a premium a cash commission of 40 per cent of all subscription money you collect.

Now is the time to start getting subscriptions for the January Cash Prizes. It costs you nothing to try and you are sure of being well paid for your work. Write for our latest Premium List from which you may select premiums for your clubs as fast as you get them up. And while you are waiting for the List, start a club to be placed to your credit on the January Prizes.

Daisy Tray Cloth



20x26
Inches

Premium No. 7851

For One
Subscription

FOR the woman who wants an extra large tray-cloth of an unusual and attractive design we offer this beautiful new daisy design which may be worked either in eyelet embroidery or solid and eyelet combined. It is 20 x 26 inches in size and comes stamped on pure white "butcher cloth" which in appearance and wearing qualities is equal to pure imported linen. You need not hesitate to put a lot of time and labor in embroidering this handsome table piece as you will certainly be delighted with it when it is finished and will have the added satisfaction of knowing that it will last a good many years. You can obtain this large, tray-cloth upon the terms of one of the following special offers.

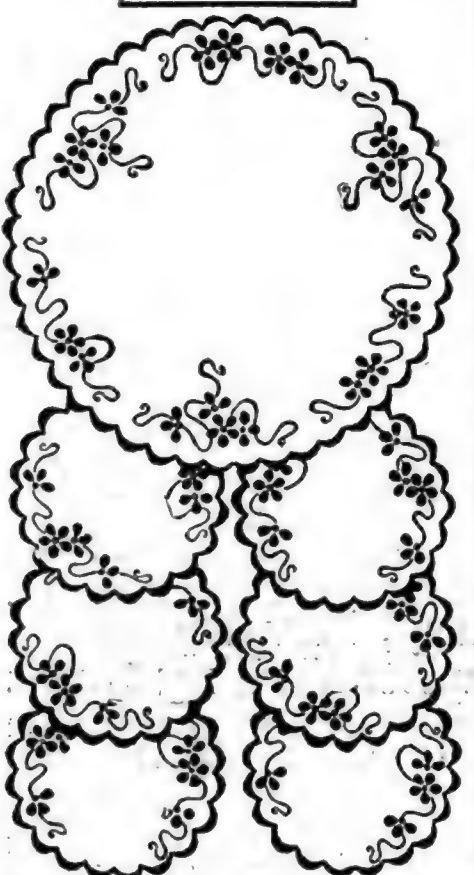
Offer 7851A. For one one-year subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25c we will send you this tray-cloth, free by parcel post prepaid.

Offer 7851B. For your own subscription or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 25c and 10c additional (35c in all) we will send you this tray-cloth free by parcel post prepaid. Premium No. 7851.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Seven-Piece Water Set

Premium No. 7821.



Given For One Subscription

THIS very attractive water set consisting of one 10-inch centerpiece and six 5-inch doilies, comes stamped on white "butcher cloth" which has all the appearance of pure linen and will wear as long if not longer. The complete set of seven pieces comes on one piece of cloth, and the design may be worked either in all eyelet or solid and eyelet embroidery combined with buttonhole edge. You can obtain this seven-piece dolly set free upon the terms of one of the following special offers.

Offer 7821A. For one one-year subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25 cents we will send you this handsome water set stamped on genuine white "butcher cloth" free by parcel post prepaid.

Offer 7821B. For your own subscription or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 25 cents and 10 cents additional (35 cents in all) we will send you this water set free by parcel post prepaid. Premium No. 7821.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



Books! Books! Books!

Here is Your Opportunity To Secure Without Cost Enough Good Reading Matter To Last You All The Year. Stories Of Love And Romance—Detective Stories—Adventure Stories—Stories For Boys And Stories For Girls—

More Than 465 Titles to Select From!

BY special arrangement with one of the largest book publishers in the country we can now supply our subscribers with a splendid variety of the very best reading for every member of the family. You will find in the list of titles printed below more than four hundred and sixty-five of the finest stories ever written, all of them by famous authors whose names are known throughout the entire civilized world. Each title was carefully selected by us with the view of giving the greatest possible variety of subjects. There are love stories, detective stories, stories of school and athletic sports, of hunting and camping, of adventure on land, sea and in the air—in fact it would be hard to find a better collection of books to be read by everybody in the home, from the youngest to the oldest. Each book is complete and unabridged, 5 by 7 1/2 inches in size, printed on good quality paper and strongly and durably bound in handsome photographic covers.

Everybody needs a good supply of reading to help pass away these long winter evenings and here is an opportunity to get yours without the cost of a single cent. We will send you free and prepaid your choice of any book or books listed on this page upon the terms of the following:

SPECIAL OFFERS! For one subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25 cents we will send you any one book free and prepaid. For a club of two at 25 cents each or one 3-year subscription (not your own) at 50 cents, we will send you any THREE books; for a club of three any FIVE books; for a club of six any TEN books; for a club of ten any FIFTEEN books. If you desire you may send your own subscription, or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 25 cents, and 5 cents additional (30 cents in all) and receive one book free. Be sure to order the books you want BY NUMBER and also GIVE AUTHOR'S NAME so that we will make no mistake in filling your order.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Give Number And Author's
Name When Ordering

Give Number And Author's
Name When Ordering

Bertha M. Clay

- 502 All for Love's Sake.
- 503 At War With Fate.
- 454 A Bartered Birthright.
- 475 The Best She Could Give.
- 287 Beyond Accusation.
- 109 Bitter Reckoning.
- 488 A Breaker of Hearts.
- 147 The Broken Trust.
- 498 Condemned Unheard.
- 349 A Daughter of Eve.
- 481 Did He Love Her?
- 300 Enchained by Passion.
- 430 The Eyes of Jealousy.
- 497 The Fatal Lure.
- 448 Fate and the Girl.
- 310 For Better, for Worse.
- 135 For Love of Her.
- 128 The Gambler's Wife.
- 175 The Girl of His Heart.
- 420 The Girl Who Won.
- 416 Golden Fetters.
- 127 A Great Mistake.
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Laura Jean Libbey

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Emma Garrison Jones

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Nicholas Carter

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Geraldine Fleming

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Charlotte M. Stanley

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Oliver Optic

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Mrs. George Sheldon

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Donald Grayson

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- 711 Bob Steele's Last Flight.
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- 687 From Auto to Airship.
- 687 In Strange Waters.
- 655 The Motor-cycle Boys.
- 661 On High Gear.
- 679 A Submarine Cruise.

Mrs. Mary J. Holmes

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Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth

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Edward C. Taylor

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- 501 Captain Nemo's Challenge.
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- 625 Ted Strong's Cattle Drive.
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- 654 Ted Strong's Crooked Trail.
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- 745 Ted Strong's Mantle Task.
- 757 Ted Strong's Man Hunt.
- 618 Ted Strong's Nebraska Ranch.
- 609 Ted Strong's Passport.
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Maxwell Stevens

- 438 Jack Lightfoot in Camp.
- 477 Jack Lightfoot's Blind.
- 444 Jack Lightfoot's Canoe Trip.
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- 499 Jack Lightfoot's Gun Club.
- 490 Jack Lightfoot's Head Work.
- 456 Jack Lightfoot's Hoodoo.
- 450 Jack Lightfoot's Iron Arm.
- 426 Jack Lightfoot's Rival.
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- 399 Jack Lightfoot, The Athlete.
- 420 Jack Lightfoot Trapped.

A Corner for Boys

By Uncle John

WHILE boys, the earth has revolved around the sun once more and our calendars tell us that a year has gone. May the new one be happy and prosperous for you. This department, as you know, treats largely on "making things." In a certain sense, that is all there is to life, simply "making things." We make friends; we make plans; we make resolutions; we make journeys; we make a career. We must learn to like this business of making, if we are to be successful. No man is, of himself, greater than any other man, but his work or the thing he makes may be superior, whether it is a poem or a law or a chicken coop. We are judged by the things we do and our value to mankind is measured solely by what we create for the common good. Let this thought guide you during the twelvemonth now at hand. Consider the year a blank book and each day a spotless page upon which will be recorded only deeds of worth and merit, and make it your proud task to see that when the end is reached, it will not be still a blank book.

Simple Coaster

The rough-and-ready coaster is easily made. For runners you need two 24-inch lengths of sound scantling curved as shown in the picture. The cutting is done with a compass saw, the smoothing with a wood chisel and the final smoothing with sandpaper. In Figs. 2 and 4 you can see how the runners are joined by means of two cross cleats or braces. The fastening should be with long screws and a hole should be bored for each screw before inserting it. The top plat-



THE FEARLESS COASTERS.

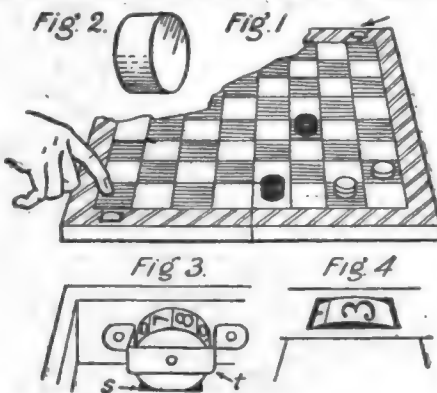
form is 22 inches by 30 inches and may consist of three 10-inch boards laid at right angles to the runners. Fasten them with countersunk screws. The holes bored for the rope handles are slightly larger in diameter than the rope used. The top of the sled may be padded with carpet or canvas. It takes some nerve to ride like the boys shown in the picture but of course you can ride sitting down if you wish to.

Telling a Girl's Age

Young ladies, as a rule, do not like to tell how old they are, but you can find out a bashful girl's age by submitting to her the following arithmetical problem. Tell her to put down the number of the month in which she was born, then to multiply it by two, then to add five, then to multiply it by 50, then to add her age, then to subtract 365, then to add 115, then ask her to tell you the amount she has left. The two figures to the right will tell you her age and the remaining one or more, the month of her birth. For example, if the amount is 822, she is 22 years of age and was born in the month of August. It will come out right every time, but it is, of course, essential that the questions be answered truthfully and the calculation be accurately performed.

Checker Game Scorer

After you have played checkers for an hour or two with a friend who is about an equal match for you, you will be sure that you have won a majority of the games and he will be equally certain that he has. A good way to avoid such disputes is to equip your board with the simple scoring device shown in the accompanying sketch. It is pictured, in the rough form, in Fig. 2. A disk of wood one quarter inch thick and one inch in diameter will be about the right size or you might use a silk spool or an extra checker for the scorer. Figures are marked on the outer edge or curved surface and a gimlet hole bored in the center. Fig. 3 presents a view of a corner of the checker-board turned upside down. The letter "t" is a strip of tin or brass, upon which the wheel is mounted. Small screws are used to fasten the ends of it and one, which snugly fits



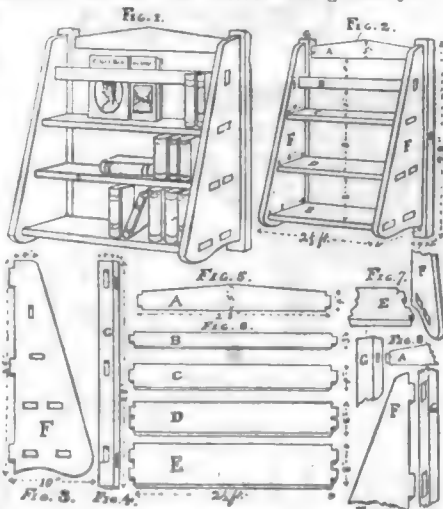
CHECKER SCORER.

the center hole, serves as an axle. A small oblong opening is made in the top of the board so that a portion of the wheel, bearing one number, may be seen. Fig. 4 makes this very clear. One of the scoring disks is placed at each of two diagonal

corners. They will be found a genuine help and might be called peace makers. When you win a game push your disk around a notch and let your opponent, in like manner, keep track of his own victories.

Book Shelf

This book shelf is constructed without the use of nails or screws. Mortise and tenon joints are used and glue holds them fast. First mark out and saw a side like Fig. 3. Fig. 2 shows the distance between the shelves and guides you in



HANDY BOOK SHELF.

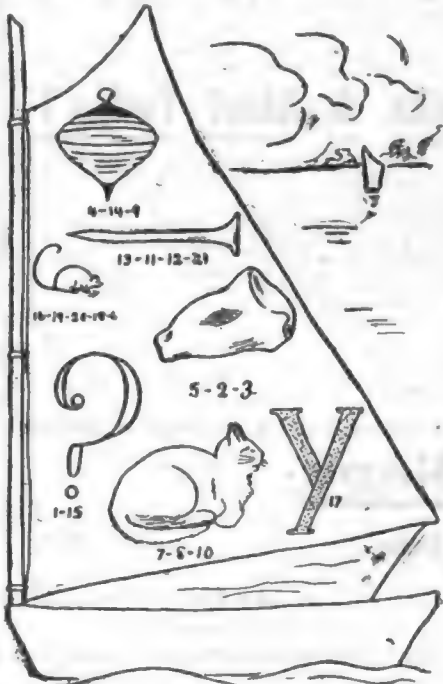
cutting the slots for the shelf ends. The slots are all the same size. They are cut by first boring one half inch holes and then squaring up same with a small wood chisel. Fig. 4 is two by four inches. The slots in it are one half inch deep. Figs. 7, 8 and 9 indicate how the parts are fitted together. Use white or yellow pine for the shelf and stain it a dark oak when complete. It is a very good plan for practice work. Extreme accuracy and neatness are essential. One way to vary the idea is not to cut the slots all the way through the sides. The drawings show the plan of construction more clearly by letting them come through but it is really not necessary and is a matter of individual taste. A shelf like this is nice for a boy's study corner and might hold stationary and much used reference books. The fine fitting is done with sandpaper. All parts are put together temporarily and when improvement seems impossible the liquid glue is used. First apply a thin coating and let it dry for a filler, then another is put on and the parts to be joined quickly brought together and clamped or weighted or tied until the glue has set. A whole day and night of the driest weather is not too much time to allow for this.

An Ice Mine

A glacier is an immense mass of ice which lodges between peaks in a mountain range and may be considered a valuable mine, if means are at hand to cut and transport it to cities. In Switzerland this was successfully tried a short time ago. The manner of working the deposit was much the same as the operation of quarrying out stone. Small holes were drilled in the top surface, and huge chunks then blasted out and poled through a down grade chute, a mile long, to waiting cars. The proximity of the railroad was the big factor in the success of the undertaking but considerable ingenuity was shown in the laying out of the work. Several degrees of grade were tried in the take away chute and at last it was perfected to such an extent that one man could move hundreds of tons of ice by exerting a pressure of only a few pounds on a specially made implement. As the glacier is continually growing at its upper end and slowly working down the valley like a great river of solid ice it is an inexhaustible source of supply.

Puzzle

Write down the name of the seven objects, under which numerals appear, arrange the letters according to the order given by the numerals. For example, the first picture is a "top" and the first letter in "top" is marked "4" and



is consequently the fourth in the sentence you are trying to build. The completed sentence contains twenty letters and expresses a thought suitable for boys at all times but particularly at this season of the year.

I am the captain of my soul.
Top, nail, mouse, ham, if, cat, y.

Riddles

Why does a baby walking on a broken sidewalk remind you of a musician?
Because he is a minor (A minor) and if he doesn't see sharp (C sharp) will soon be flat (B flat).

Why should a besieged army prosper on a diet of sawdust?
Because it is fine board.
What should a drill master with a very rough voice do with it?
Smooth it on a file of soldiers.

Well, once more, I bid you a reluctant good by. If it were possible, I would like to have you with me in my workshop. But, my gracious, what an immense shop it would have to be. The biggest automobile factory in the world, with its 30,000 employees, would hardly be big enough to hold your lunch boxes, for, as I reckon it,

there must be close to a half million COMFORT boys. Think what a clatter all the hammers would make and imagine the train loads of sawdust that would accumulate, to say nothing of chips and other rubbish; but enough, I will not think of that or may be the thought of some one's dropping a match will intrude and burn up my pleasure dream. May your year be full of pleasant dreams and your dreams become realities.

UNCLE JOHN.

Nerine's Second Choice

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26.)

"Why didn't you knock at the window?" the latter demanded.

"Because Kit would have screamed!"

"But you didn't know she was here."

"I did," Maurice regarded the agonized Kit firmly. "I saw her boxes at the station."

"And never brought them!" cried Kit, ungratefully.

"I wasn't allowed to have anything to do with them. A cherry-cheeked damsel and a young man who appeared to be in the fishmonger way were just settling them on a barrow."

"A barrow! Some of them will fall off and be lost!"

Kit was still standing in the middle of the room, shoeless, with gathered-up raiment.

"How did you manage to time your visit so neatly?" inquired Nerine, subsiding into graceless ease on the hearth rug. "Did you know the old boy was going?"

"Of course. You wouldn't see me here if I didn't."

He spoke with magnificent carelessness which reached Kit's soul.

"How did you ever know? We didn't write," Nerine persisted.

Maurice grinned.

"Ask Kit. She was the last person who heard from me." He uttered this with such apparent candor that his sisters were completely deceived.

"I thought I would just slip over without letting any of you know and see what you were up to. Come on, ladies, and consume jam while I take a turn at that chicken!"

TO BE CONTINUED.

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Stories of the Off-the-Street Club

By Edwin Balmer, the Noted Magazine Writer

We wish to send you free a little booklet called "Stories of the Off-the-Street Club." These stories, with many side lights and interesting tales from the congested districts of a metropolis have been written by Edwin Balmer. The tales are full of the deepest human interest. And they will open your eyes to the problems of the child whose home is the street. This booklet will be sent without obligation.



The boys of the Off-the-Street Club, having themselves been helped, are taught to help others. That, and that alone, makes for character. Here is a group of boy scouts from this club, taking Xmas bundles to poor families in the neighborhood. Would you like to send some extra money for a bundle?

Name _____
Address _____

ALL OF THESE FREE

This lovely Gold plated stone-set Pendant and 18-in. Neck Chain and this handsomely designed stone-set Bracelet which opens to fit wrist and these 3 valuable Gold plated Rings, also this fine pair of Sparkling Pierced Ear Drops. ALL GIVEN FREE for sending only 12 pieces of Jewelry at 10c each. We trust you and take back all not sold and we also give you a valuable extra gift. R. D. DALE MFG. CO. Providence, R. I.

The Awl For All

Myers "Look Stitch" Sewing Awl. Sample complete \$1.00. Low price to agents. C. A. Myers Company, 6334 University Ave., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

THE MONO X-RAY

10 cts

With this eye glass you can apparently see thro cloth or wood, see the bones in the body, makes the flesh look transparent. An optical illusion. By mail 10 cts. stamps or coin. THE ARDEE CO. box 242 Stamford Conn.

THIS GENUINE FRIENDSHIP RING FREE

Sterling Silver finish. To introduce our Jewelry catalogue, we will send this ring free, your initials, hand engraved for 12 cts. EAGLE JEWELRY CO., Dept. 38, EAST BOSTON, MASS.

BUICK OR \$10000 CASH FREE

Send me your name at once if you live in the country or town under 10,000, for my new easy plan for getting this New 1917 BUICK or \$1000 in cash. It will surely appeal to you. No money needed. I have already given away 40 autos. Write today for full particulars. C. F. ALDRICH, Dept. E, St. Paul, Minn.

\$10 Days Free Trial

Play on the violin of your choice—and test it for 10 days before you decide to buy. Send it back at our expense or pay for it at the rate of only a few cents a day.

WURLIZER

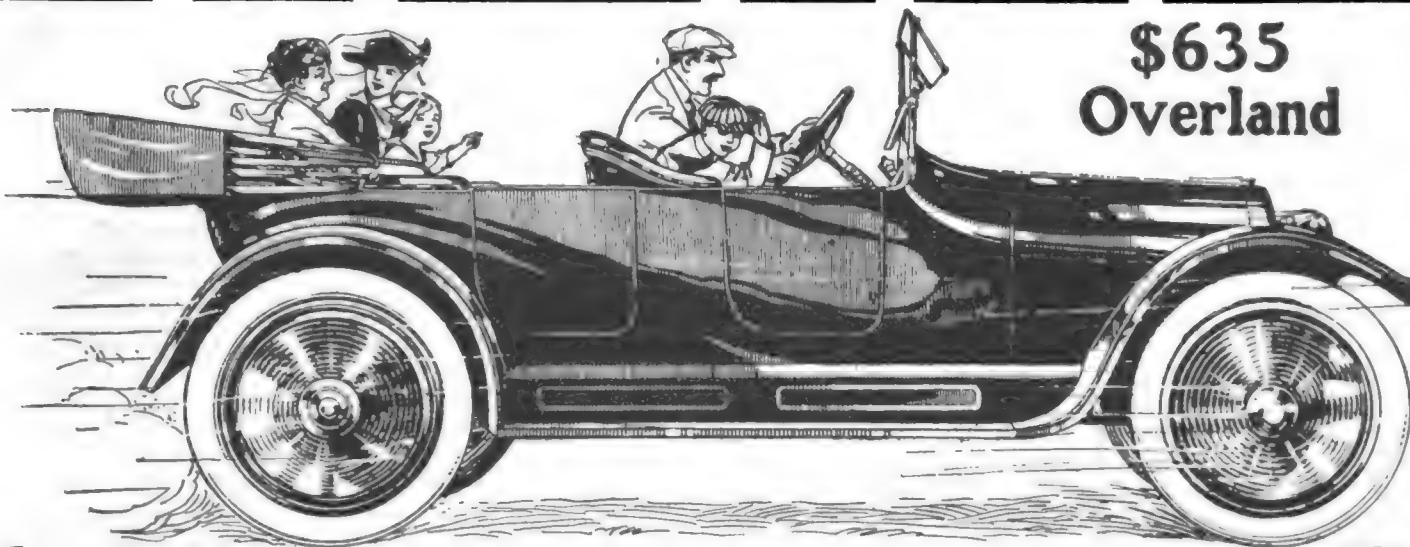
Rare Old Violin. Write today for Special Circular. No obligations. Get full particulars of our offer and handsome illustrations of superb instruments. Write now. The Wurlitzer Company, Dept. 7771, 57 Wabash Ave., Chicago. P. O. Box 414, Cincinnati, O.

REPLINE PREMO CAMERA FREE

Or choice of Watch or Silver watch or Electric Flash light. Choose from our large list of premiums given for selling 30 pins. Post Card or 30 Religious and Art Pictures at 10c each, your choice. Order today. HERMAN & CO., 2310 Lincoln Ave., Dept. 600 CHICAGO.



This Fine Touring Car Given Away!



\$635
Overland

It Is First Grand Prize In Comfort's Subscription Contest! And The One Who Wins The Car Will Be Given The Money To Run It A Whole Season!

THINK of it! If you should come out the First Prize Winner in this free-for-all contest—and your chances are just as good as anybody's—you not only get this big, beautiful, powerful 1917 Five-Passenger "Overland" but in the meantime you will have won enough money in Monthly Cash Prizes to easily pay for the expense of running it all next summer—and very likely two summers.

The man, woman, boy or girl who wins this car is absolutely sure of winning the cash also.

As explained below the Monthly Cash Prizes are entirely extra and in addition to the Auto and 61 other Grand Prizes. We are paying them to the contestants who send in the most subscriptions each month—up to and including

108 Monthly Cash Prizes And 61 Grand Prizes Besides The Auto!

This contest is open to all except our own employees, news agents or dealers and professional subscription solicitors. The Monthly Cash Prizes are awarded every month as explained further on. The 62 Grand Prizes, a list of which is given below, will be given in their order to the 62 contestants who send in the most subscriptions up to and including April 30, 1917. The \$635 Overland Car will go to the one who sends in the largest number of subscriptions. The \$200 in cash will go to the one who sends in the second largest number. The \$150 in cash will go to the one who sends in the third largest number, and so on. Following is a list of the Grand Prizes:

- First Grand Prize \$635 Five-Passenger Overland Touring Car
- Second Grand Prize \$200 Cash
- Third Grand Prize \$150 Cash
- Fourth Grand Prize \$100 Cash
- Fifth Grand Prize \$75 Cash
- Sixth Grand Prize \$50 Cash
- Seventh Grand Prize \$25 Cash
- Next Ten Grand Prizes each \$15 Cash
- Next Fifteen Grand Prizes each \$10 Cash
- Next Thirty Grand Prizes each \$5 Cash

The Monthly Cash Prizes ranging from \$100 to \$2.00 a list of which follows, are awarded and paid each and every month—up to and including April 1917. They are given to the contestants who send in the most subscriptions during each month. So you see this gives you the opportunity to win one or more Monthly Cash Prizes—besides one Grand Prize—either the Auto or a Grand Cash Prize. Also notice that beginning with December the Monthly Prizes double and with January they triple, thus giving you the opportunity to win twice and

You Are Sure Of Your Premiums!

Nobody loses in this contest. We are going to reward every contestant for every single subscription secured—either with premiums or a cash commission. Every club you send in will entitle you to a fine premium which you may select from our regular Premium List or any issue of COMFORT. And that very same club will be placed to your credit on the Monthly Cash Prizes and the Auto and other Grand Prizes. Your premiums will be sent to you promptly upon receipt of your clubs, or, if you prefer the cash commission, deduct and retain 40 per cent. of the subscription money collected and remit us the balance. In this way we liberally reward you for all of your subscriptions as fast as you secure them. The premiums or commission alone more than pay you for your trouble and you still have the opportunity to become the owner of the splendid \$635 Overland Touring Car or one of the other Grand Prizes to be awarded, at the close of the contest, April 30, 1917.

April 1917. And as the Auto and other Grand Prizes will go to those who send in the most subscriptions during the entire six months (beginning November 1916) you will readily see why the winner of the Car—who has already won a large number of the Monthly Cash Prizes—will also have the money to pay for "gas" and other operating expenses for a long time to come.

Now is the time to make a start if you want a chance at this splendid \$635 "Overland" and the other magnificent prizes named below. Remember—the Contest has been running only a few short weeks—and it is not too late for you to enter and win if you will start after your first Club today.

Why Not Make A Start Today?

three times the amount of the original prize. In other words if you win a Monthly Cash Prize one month we pay you at once. If you win any Monthly Cash Prize the next month we will pay you double the amount of your second month's prize, and we will continue to pay double each successive month that you continue to win any Monthly Cash Prize. Doubling begins with December.

If you win the same Monthly Cash Prize three months in succession we will pay you double the amount of the prize the second month and triple the amount the third month, and we will continue to pay you triple the amount each successive month that you continue to win the same Monthly Cash Prize. To the contestant who wins the First Monthly Cash Prize each month for the whole six months we will pay four times the amount of that prize the fourth month, five times the amount the fifth month, and six times the amount the sixth month. Tripling begins with January. Following is a list of the Monthly Cash Prizes. The November Cash Prizes have already been paid and the names of the winners are published elsewhere in this issue.

DECEMBER CASH PRIZES

First Prize	\$30 or \$60	Next 3 Prizes	\$5 or \$10 each
Second Prize	20 or 40	Next 4 Prizes	3 or 6 each
Third Prize	10 or 20	Next 8 Prizes	2 or 4 each

JANUARY CASH PRIZES

First Prize	\$30 to \$90	Next 3 Prizes	\$5 to \$15 each
Second Prize	20 to 60	Next 4 Prizes	3 to 9 each
Third Prize	10 to 30	Next 8 Prizes	2 to 6 each

The Cash Prizes for February, March and April are the same as those for January with the exception that the First Prize is \$30 to \$120 for February, \$30 to \$150 for March and \$30 to \$180 for April.

In case of a tie for any prize (a Monthly Cash Prize or a Grand Prize) a prize exactly like the one tied for will be given to each tying contestant.

7 Wheel Chairs in December 382 is COMFORT'S Total to Date

The seven wheel chairs in December bring our total for 1916 up to 72 and make it by far the best year's showing in the history of the Wheel-Chair Club. We have beaten our 1915 record by 21, which gives me hope that we may give this splendid mercy work a still bigger boost the coming year.

The seven December chairs go to the following applicants. The figures after their names indicate the number of subscriptions sent in by them or by their friends in their behalf.

Miss Helen Daggett, Enterprise, Oregon, 202; Ona E. Catts, Paris, Ark., 171; Jesse D. Bryan, 303 Highland Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C., 135; Mallie F. B. Ferguson, Boston, Texas, 123; Wilhelmina Moore, Box 46, Vernon, Conn., 100; Mrs. Malinda Gillem, Courtois, Mo., 92; Herbert E. Walker, R. R. 1, Summerfield, N. C. 88.

Helen Daggett, age 18, had infantile paralysis ten years ago which left her crippled from her knees down. Mrs. Rosa Akers sent the entire 202 subscriptions for her, all in one club.

Little Ona Catts, age four, is another victim of infantile paralysis which has deprived her of the use of her lower limbs.

Jesse D. Bryan, age nine, crippled from birth, can not stand or walk. His mother writes that she is very desirous of the wheel chair so to take him out on the street.

Little Mallie Ferguson, age four, has been badly crippled since she had infantile paralysis two years ago and can only use her arms and hands a little. Her mother has five other children to care for.

Wilhelmina Moore, age seven, has been sick three months with infantile paralysis and has no use of her lower limbs.

Mrs. Gillem, aged 75, suffers severely from rheumatism which has made her a shut-in. She is a widow and dependent on her unmarried daughter with whom she lives.

Poor little Herbert Walker, age five, is entirely helpless, caused by spinal trouble which has been upon him from birth.



William Foster, Huntsville, Ala., in His COMFORT Wheel Chair.

These are all sad cases, but no more distressing than the needs of a hundred other applicants that are trying to earn COMFORT wheel chairs and need your help.

There is no space left for letters of thanks, but we have a fine Roll of Honor this month and the picture of William Foster seated in his COMFORT wheel chair will interest you.

Sincerely yours,
W. H. GANNETT, Publisher of COMFORT.

P. S. For the information of our many new subscribers let me explain that for each and every 200 new one-year subscriptions to COMFORT sent in either singly or in clubs by persons who direct that they are to be credited to COMFORT'S WHEEL-CHAIR CLUB instead of claiming the premiums to which they would be entitled, I give a FIRST-CLASS INVALID WHEEL CHAIR to some needy crippled Star and pay the freight, too. It is a large and expensive premium for me to give for that number of subscribers, but I am always glad to do my part a little faster each month than you do yours. Subscription price is 25 cents, but if sent in clubs of five or more for the Wheel-Chair Club, I accept them at 20 cents each.

COMFORT'S Roll of Honor

The Roll of Honor comprises the names of those who have sent five or more subscriptions to credit of the Wheel-Chair Club during the month previous. Following each name is the number of subscriptions sent

Mrs. Rosa Akers, Oregon, for Helen Daggett, 202; H. B. Smith, Colo., for own wheel chair, 78; Mrs. A. W. Barnes, N. C., for Catherine Barnes, 73; Eva Hickman, Ark., for Ona Catts, 70; Mrs. Rosetta Smith, Nevada, for Martha E. Harvey, 60; Miss Nellie Ferguson, Texas, for Mallie Fay Belle Ferguson, 51; Miss Margaret La Chapelle, Conn., for Wilhelmina Moore, 50; Nellie Odell, Texas, for Emmett Odell, 50; Mrs. F. N. La Chapelle, Conn., for Wilhelmina Moore, 50; Mrs. G. L. Acheson, N. Dak., for Mrs. Della Wyman, 50; Mrs. R. W. Bryan, N. C., for Jesse D. Bryan, 49; Mrs. S. W. Walker, N. C., for Herbert Walker, 43; J. B. Claxton, Texas, for own wheel chair, 34; Mrs. Lena Andrews, Maine, for Mrs. Edith M. Cole, 30; A. Friend, Va., for Roland Eugene Chewning, 25; Mrs. Thos. M. Blount, Mo., for Mrs. Malinda Gillem, 25; Mrs. S. A. Strong, Oregon, for Nada Pearl Strong, 23; Miss Lee Gildewell, Ark., for Miss Jerome Morris, 22; Anna Marteller, Va., for Miss Anne Horton, 20; Mrs. Martin Coleman, Del., for own wheel chair, 20; Stella Robinson, Maine, for Mrs. Edith Cole, 17; Mrs. Lula Rutland, Miss., for Mrs. Agamdia Summers, 17; May Robinson, Maine, for Mrs. Edith Cole, 17; Julia Packard, Maine, for Mrs. Edith Cole, 17; Mrs. J. E. Mossey, Mont., for general, 16; Miss Frances Morris, Va., for Maude Sparks, 16; Mrs. Nina Beach, N. Mex., for own wheel chair, 15; M. A. Williams, Ark., for Callie Williams, 15; Mrs. Rosalie Probes, Texas, for Floyd Ledbetter, 15; Mrs. A. Earnest, Texas, for Mollie Ferguson, 14; Zoe L. Brown, Mo., for Mrs. Malinda Gillem, 14; Mrs. J. W. Dikeman, Colo., for Preston Morgan, 13; Mrs. George Osborne, Oregon, for Nada Pearl Strong, 11;

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 33.)

Contest Subscription Blank

COMFORT, Prize Contest Dept., Augusta, Maine.

Date..... 191

Dear Sir: Please enter my name in the Contest. I enclose \$..... to pay for the following subscriptions to be placed to my credit on the Monthly Cash Prizes, Auto and other Grand Prizes.

Subscriber's Name	Street and Number or R. F. D. Number	Box Number	Post Office	State	Write Below Length of Time Subscribed For

Send Me Premium No. My Name is State

Post Office Street and No. R. F. D. No. Box No.

COMFORT'S Subscription Price is 25 Cents a Year, 50 Cents for 3 Years, \$1.00 for 6 Years. Two Years' Renewal (for old subscribers only) 30 Cents. Foreign Subscriptions Are Barred From This Contest.

Comfort's League of Cousins

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28.)

Sheppard, R. R. 1, Box 33, Va. Bedridden for thirty-one years. No means of support. Almost blind. Send him some of the sympathy that buys food, medicine and clothing. Myrtle Eschbaugh, Tionesta, Pa. Invalid for fourteen years. Aged mother her only support, and she suffers from heart trouble. Send these poor souls some cheer. Well recommended. Mr. and Mrs. Win. Adams, 26 St. Paul St., Bellingham, Wash. Aged couple. Poor, sick and needy. Remember them. Mrs. Jean Neilson, Sagamon Poor Farm, Buffalo, Ill. Seventy-seven years of age. Alone in the world. Send some sunshine her way. Mrs. Clara Crawford, Hartford, Mich. Seventy years of age. Partially paralyzed. No means of support. Send her some of the sympathy that buys bread. Libbie Rangier, Continental, Ohio. Invalid for many years. Send her some cheer. Poor and needy. Mrs. Anna Teague, Nortonville, R. R. 2, Ky. Invalid for many years. Send her some sunshine. T. A. Walker, Millboro, R. R. 1, N. C. Invalid. Unable to work. Has wife and four small children dependent on him. Give them a boost. Mrs. Nanie Craig, Critz, Va. Invalid. Alone in the world. No means of support. Send her some cheer. Mrs. Ulala Warden, Boonville, R. R. 2, N. C. Invalid. Would appreciate cheery letters and reading matter. Ruby Richey, Grove, Okla. A little invalid girl, three years of age, would like cheery letters and reading matter. Julia B. Potter, Canon City, Colo. Shut-in. Would appreciate cheery letters.

Start the year right by doing something for these poor suffering creatures. Don't be a selfish tightwad all your life, don't leave all the giving to others. You can't start the New Year better than by trying to be human, trying to be Christ-like. Here's the opportunity to be both.

Lovingly yours,

Uncle Charlie

Comfort's League of Cousins

The League of Cousins was founded as a means of bringing the scattered members of COMFORT'S immense circle of readers into one big, happy family. Its aim is to promote a feeling of kinship and relationship among all readers. It was primarily started as a society for the juvenile members of COMFORT'S family, only, but those of more mature years clamored for admittance so persistently that it was deemed advisable to impose no age limit; thus all are eligible to admittance into our League, provided they conform to its rules and are animated by the child spirit.

Membership is restricted to COMFORT subscribers and costs thirty cents, only five cents more than the regular subscription to COMFORT which is included. The thirty cents makes you a member of the League and gives you an attractive League button with the letters "C. L. O. C." a handsome certificate of membership with your name engraved thereon, and the privilege of having your name in the letter list, also a paid-in-advance subscription to COMFORT. You continue a League member as long as you keep up your subscription to COMFORT. There are no annual dues, so after you have once joined all you have to do to keep in good standing is to keep your subscription to COMFORT paid up.

Please observe carefully the following directions which explain exactly

How to become a Member

Send thirty cents to COMFORT'S Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. With your request to be admitted into COMFORT'S LEAGUE OF COUSINS, and you will at once receive the League button as long as you keep up your subscription; you will also receive COMFORT for one year if you are a new subscriber; but if you are already a subscriber your subscription will be renewed or extended one full year beyond date of expiration.

Or, if your subscription is already paid in advance, you can take a friend's one-year subscription at 25 cents and send it in with five cents of your own, thirty cents in all, with your request for membership, and we will send you the button and membership certificate, and send COMFORT to your friend.

for one year. League subscriptions do not count in premium clubs.

NEVER apply for membership without enclosing thirty cents to include a new subscription or a renewal.

The League numbering over forty thousand members, undoubtedly is the greatest society of young people on earth. It costs but thirty cents to join, and that gives you at least a 15-month subscription to COMFORT also, without extra cost. Never in the world's history was so much given for so little. Never could thirty cents be invested to such advantage, and bring such splendid returns. Don't hesitate. Join us at once and induce your friends to do likewise.

All these League members who desire a list of the cousins residing in the several states, can secure the same by sending a stamped addressed envelope and five cents in stamps to Nellie Rutherford, 1299 Park Place, Brooklyn, New York, grand secretary.

Special Notice

Never write a subscription or renewal order or application for membership in the body of a letter. Write your subscription or renewal and membership application on a separate sheet of paper, separate from your letter. We have to put all subscription orders on our subscription file at once; so if it is written on the same sheet as your letter, the whole letter and subscription order will be discarded and thus can receive no attention from Uncle Charlie.

Never send subscriptions to Uncle Charlie nor to the Secretary of the League; they bother him and cause confusion and delay.

Address all letters to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, and they will promptly reach the head of the department for which they are intended.

Uncle Charlie's Poems Will Help You Start the New Year Right!

No matter how gloomy the world is Uncle Charlie's Poems are sunnier than ever. They make you laugh, yell, scream and forget your troubles. They are the best medicine in the world. Uncle Charlie's Poems, a gorgeous, lilac silk cloth bound, 160-page volume of riotous fun. No home can be complete without this exuberantly funny book. You will yell with delight as you peruse its enchanting pages. Among the laughs you will find a few tears and an absorbingly interesting sketch of Uncle Charlie and Maria preparing the monthly talks you enjoy so much. This superb volume free for four one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25c each. These subs. count toward our grand cash prize competitions.

Uncle Charlie's Song Book Contains 28 of the Dandiest Songs!

You can't get Uncle Charlie's songs. Everyone is a hit and his book is a cracker jack of beauty, big band and handsonic with full music for voice and piano. Worth a hundred dollar bill to anyone who loves real, classy, melodious music, and entrancing words. Superb pictures of Uncle Charlie decorate the artistic cover. Free for a club of only two one-year subscriptions to COMFORT at 25c each. Both books free for a club of six. Work for them today!

LONGEST TUNNEL COMPLETED.—Canada's new five-mile double track tunnel under the Selkirk Mountains has been named "Connaught Tunnel." It lowers the Canadian Pacific's mountain grade by 500 feet. It is the longest double-track tunnel in the Western Hemisphere, and was begun less than three years ago. It is a quarter of a mile longer than the Hoosac Tunnel.

A SMALLER POTATO CROP.—The estimated potato crop of the United States was about 318,000,000 bushels last year. This is hardly enough to supply the needs of the people until potatoes grow again. Unless housewives use care in making use only of what they actually need, they will have to pay excessively high prices and possibly go without them before spring.

7 Wheel Chairs in December

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32.)

Mrs. J. S. Dixon, N. C., for Herbert Everett Walker, 10; Mrs. Ovilla Empey, Utah, for Community Chair, 10; Mrs. F. A. Harrison, Texas, for J. R. Claxton, 10; Mrs. Naomi Moad, Okla., for own wheel chair, 10; Mollie Andrews, Okla., for Buel Hubbard, 10; Leithor D. Darter, Texas, for own wheel chair, 9; Mrs. Eugene Douglass, Fla., for Catherine Frazier, 8; Winnie Winters, Wash., for General, 8; Miss S. M. Day, Pa., for General, 7; Mrs. Lomi Hunt, Tenn., for Allie Ruth Scott, 7; Mrs. Artie Catts, Ark., for Ona Catts, 7; Mrs. L. Anderson, N. J., for General, 7; Minnie Ostrander, Okla., for General, 6; Lee Payton, Okla., for General, 6; Bertha Woods, Mo., for General, 6; Eva Bayless, Tenn., General Fund for Alice Scafe, 6; Ada Beck, Ky., for Annie Opal Beck, 5; Mrs. Jim Covin, Idaho, for Mrs. Arabella A. Sherrod, 5; Catherine Fraisure, Fla., for own wheel chair, 5; Miss Toka Henry, Ark., for Alva Sydney Price, 5; May Hutchings, Ark., Little Coffman boy, 5; Mrs. Jessie Joseph, Minn., for Mark Clark, 5; Mrs. James Mason, N. Dak., for General, 5; Eugene Mize, N. C., for John Calvin Shook, 5; Mrs. Della Purcell, Okla., for Alice Scafe, 5; Amy Roberts, Okla., for Ona Catts, 5; Mrs. Bettie E. Rucker, Va., for General, 5; Mrs. Edwin F. Tobey, Maine, for General, 5.

A Few Odd Breads of The World

By Edna Mary Colman

SCATTERED over the earth are many kinds of queer breads and some of them are odd to the extreme both as to the ingredients used and the methods of preparing them.

German ingenuity has devised a bread made from sawdust, that has been pronounced as nutritious for human beings though it was intended solely for horses. For this the sawdust is first put through a process of fermentation and various other chemical transformations, after which it is mixed with one third part of rye flour, formed into loaves and baked just like any other bread. "Pain de bois," the French call it, has been declared fit for men as well as their equine friends.

The Laplanders use the inner bark of the pine tree, which is well ground and mixed with oat flour and made into cakes which are cooked in a pan over the fire.

The Molucca Islanders use the starchy pith of the sago palm to make their little flat oblong loaves of bread which they bake in funny little cell-like ovens just large enough to hold the loaves. This pith gives a sort of a white floury meal.

Moss that grows on fir trees is converted into a bread for the Columbia River natives. After this moss is dried it is sprinkled with water, allowed to ferment, then rolled into big balls, large as a human head, and baked in pits through the use of hot stones. Freakish as this is, it is said to be not unpalatable.

In far-away Persia the natives sell their odd bread by the yard. Fancy buying a yard of bread!

It is made of the whole wheat ground up by the individual and made into a thin batter which is poured into a shallow pan and baked in hot gravel. Barring biting now and then into a bit of sand, this is a delicious bread that grows upon one. The bread man or vendor bakes it in sheets two feet to about three in length and a foot in width, while it is only about half an inch in thickness. When he is ready to start out he does not put this in a basket. He simply gathers up a pile of sheets of bread and sallies forth to sell it at about a nickel a sheet.

The California Indians collect the pollen of cat-tails in large quantities, by beating it off the

plants and catching it on blankets. While this is used for making bread, their real luxury is bread made of "grasshopper flour."

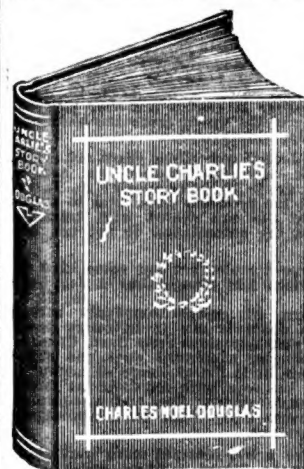
The Sierra country Indians make their bread from a flour obtained from acorns. They shuck and grind a large quantity of acorn meat. A number of large bowl-like vats are dug out of the soil and into these are emptied the acorn pulp. Near by are kept clothes baskets filled with water, into which are dropped hot stones. Upon the mass of crushed acorn kernels, hot water is poured from time to time until the mass is about the color and consistency of cream. Not a speck is to be found for a squaw stands by each vat and with a small fir bough stirs the mass and removes any intruding speck that shows itself on the surface. The earth gradually absorbs the bitter waters leaving a firm white substance, which the Indians remove so quickly and skillfully that but little sticks to the soil. They spread this white substance upon the rocks to dry and afterward mix it with water, put it into thin little cakes and bake it before the fire.

UNCLE CHARLIE'S LIFE IN PICTURES

Uncle Charlie's Picture Book

Good as a Visit to His Home

Visit Uncle Charlie in his famous chicken coop and see how he lives and works. Big, beautiful, full page, half-tone cuts equal to photographs, that show Uncle Charlie and his charming assistants Maria and the Goat in every phase of their busy lives. See Uncle Charlie sitting in a chair for first time in nineteen years, and get a peep at his bigson, mother, school and church, and see him as an actor playing many parts. A beautiful, intensely interesting, artistic book, 9 1/2 by 7 1/4 inches, free for two subs. at 25c each—fifty cents in all.



Uncle Charlie's Story Book

Full of the most delightful stories ever written. You will laugh one minute and cry the next as you read these entrancing stories of Uncle Charlie's life. Read how Maria and Billy the Goat met Uncle Charlie; read "Billy, Or Help Wanted," the funniest story ever written, 160 pages of trib and merriment, photos and tears, illustrated and beautifully bound in silk cloth, stiff covers, gold topped. Free for four subs. at 25c each—one dollar in all.

Also bound in heavy fancy blue paper covers for only two subs. at 25c each—fifty cents in all. Ideal birthday presents. Work for them today. Secure one or both of these superb souvenirs of this remarkable man who devotes his time and talents to the service of humanity.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine. Note. Full particulars of how to secure Uncle Charlie's splendid poems and song book will be found at the end of the League of Cousins' Department.

Big Lot Of Beautiful Lace Valentines, Cards And Novelties!

A Joyful Valentine Surprise For You

Large Handsome Lace Valentines, Dainty Novelty Cut Outs, Cupids, Hearts, Folders, Turnover Cards and a Splendid Assortment of Lovely Gold and Color Embossed Valentine Post Cards!

WE realize that it is hard for most of our readers to secure the latest up-to-date Valentine novelties as generally they are found only in the stores of the large cities. So we have had made up for us at a great bargain by one of the big manufacturers a large special assortment of these latest style Valentines, Cards and Novelties including a number of exclusive designs which cannot be obtained in the stores or anywhere except from us. Best of all we will give you the whole collection entirely free of expense and as it is so large and contains so many different articles you will be able to sell quite a lot of them to your friends and still have enough left for your own use. Just see what this big assortment contains:

1 Large Lace Monitor Top Two Leaf Valentine Folder in a pretty heart and flower embossed Valentine envelope, 1 large Lace Periscope Heart Canopy Two Leaf Folder in envelope, 1 large Novelty Card Lace Pergola Valentine in envelope, 1 Magic Turnover Valentine, 2 Pretty Heart Folding Valentines, 4 Assorted Valentine Novelty Cut Outs, 2 Juvenile Valentine Hearts, 1 Handsome Embossed Valentine Folder, 1 Embossed Flower, Heart and Cupid Panel Valentine Bookmark, 3 Beautiful Gold and Color Embossed Valentine Post Cards.

February 14 is considered as St. Valentine's Day although Valentines are sent all through the month. It is a beautiful custom that appeals to all both young and old—the exchange of these sentiments of friendship, affection and love, these tender Cupid dart missiles between husband and wife, sweethearts, near and dear friends and relatives, and of course, the school children like to exchange with their little friends these dainty love tokens beginning on the fourteenth of February, the month when birds are supposed to choose their mates. Most of the schools now have Valentine Boxes in which the children drop their Valentines to be distributed later in the day, an hour or more being set apart by the teacher for that purpose. And not only the children but the older people as well still are keeping alive the spirit of youth by sending on St. Valentine's Day some appropriate token of remembrance to husband, wife, sweetheart or friend.

The befrilled and lace cards with raised cupids and crimson hearts of which a fine assortment is included in this collection have been used much of late but the prettier and more original style of full lace Valentines are returning more in favor each year. We give you several special exclusive designs of the most beautiful lace Valentines obtainable, also the new Novelty Cards which are cut out by a specially constructed die of a very unique pattern.

Our illustration gives you a very fair idea as to what you may expect as regards quantity but it falls far short of showing you the size and quality of the different cards, novelties, etc. The large beautiful lace Valentine is actually 6 inches long and nearly 5 inches wide, of the well-known Monitor top pattern of pretty and fine lace work raised two inches on an accordion plaited standard with a heart and gold decorated base and a charming illustrated sentiment of verse on the inside. Two other handsome lace Valentines are also included in this collection. One is a young maiden thus giving the fine Pergola effect so popular in the olden days. The other is a pretty periscope heart-shaped canopy of elevated lace paper on a background on which is shown standing a

All New Designs This Season

Premium No. 7291

Given To You If You Will Accept Special Offer Below

The Largest and Choicest Collection Of Up-to-date High-Grade Valentine Novelties Ever Offered For So Small An Effort!

childish figure and on the inside you find an illustrated verse of proper sentiment. A most pleasing novelty is the magic Turnover Valentine which first appears to be an ordinary folder, then presto—a flip of the finger and it unfolds and shows a smiling little girl sitting on a stile and an expectant youth standing at a short distance, all of this being handsomely printed in colors with an appropriate verse underneath. This also makes a very handsome mantelpiece ornament as it is quite large and stands without support.

In addition to these very latest Novelty Valentines which we have taken pains to describe so that you will understand something of their real beauty and attractiveness, we also include in this remarkable collection two very pretty embossed heart-shaped folders with verse inside, four choice assorted Valentine Novelty Cut Outs of little children, two red and gold illustrated and inscribed Valentine Hearts, one beautiful embossed Cupid and Heart Floral Bookmark, printed in bright colors on a tinted background and five handsome Valentine Post Cards embossed in gold and many bright colors showing flowers and children at play each having the proper sentiment expressed by an appropriate verse underneath.

Thousands of our readers are going to send for this fine large Valentine assortment of the latest and prettiest Valentine Cards and Novelties and although we have a large supply yet we fear we have not enough to go around so take no chances of being disappointed but send in your order at once. You will be simply delighted with what you get and you will say that they are the prettiest, most original Valentine Novelties you ever saw. You may not be able to use all of them yourself but you can easily sell some of them or maybe you had rather give them to some member of your family, or to your friends or keep them until next year.

We will send you this big Valentine collection all packed in a neat tasty envelope, free and postpaid if you will accept our special offer printed below. Be sure to send in your order early so as to get it in time for St. Valentine's Day.

Will Cost You No Money!

Although a Valentine assortment not so good as this has been sold in city retail stores for over one dollar in the past yet by buying a large quantity at a bargain price from a leading manufacturer we are able to give them away among our friends and readers on the terms of the following liberal offers:

Offer No. 7291 A. For one one-year subscription (not your own) to COMFORT at 25 cents we will send you this big assortment of beautiful up-to-date Valentines, Valentine Cards and Novelties free by mail postpaid.

Offer No. 7291 B. For your own subscription, or renewal or extension of your present subscription for one year at 35 cents we will send you this Valentine assortment free and postpaid. **Premium No. 7291.** Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



The Emporium of Bargains and Opportunities

Pithy Little Advertisements that are Interesting, Instructive and Profitable to Read, for they put you wise to the newest and best in the market and keep you in touch with the world's progress.



AGENTS WANTED

Agents Make Big Money. The Best line of food flavors, perfumes, soaps and toilet preparations, etc. ever offered. Over 250 light weight, popular priced, quick selling necessities—in big demand—well advertised—easy sellers—big repeaters. Over 100% profit. Complete outfit furnished free to workers. Just a postal today. American Products Co., 9615 3rd St., Cincinnati, O.

Remnant Store, 1516 G-Vine, Cincinnati, O. Greatest Dry Goods bargains on earth. Agents wanted for New, Profitable Business.

Large Manufacturer wants agents to sell shirts, underwear, hosiery, dresses, waists, skirts, direct to homes. Write for free samples. Madison Mills, 586 Broadway, New York City.

We Start You In Business, furnishing everything; men and women, \$30 to \$200 weekly operating our "New System Candy Factories". Book free. William Ragsdale, East Orange, N.J.

Agents Profits—Our plan beats anything ever before offered. Goods practically sell themselves. "Horoco," 231 N. 2nd, St. Louis, Mo.

Agents: 100 to 300% Profit selling Duo Toilet articles, Perfumes, Spices, Soaps, Family Medicines and Specialties. Big Every-day Sellers. Exclusive Territory. Outfit Free. All or Spare Time. Big Chance. Duo Factories, Dept. C, 40, North Java, N. Y.

Agents—Steady Income. Large manufacturer of Handkerchiefs and Dress Goods, etc., wishes representative in each locality. Factory to consumer. Big profits, honest goods. Credit given. Send for particulars. Freeport Mfg. Co., 60 Main St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Every Home on Farm, In Small Town or suburb needs and will buy the wonderful Aladdin kerosene (coal-oil) mantle lamp; five times as bright as electric; tested and recommended by Government and 34 leading universities; awarded gold medal; one farmer cleared over \$500 in 6 weeks; hundreds with rigs or autos earning \$300 to \$500 per month; no capital required; we furnish goods to reliable men; write quick for distributor's proposition, and lamp for free trial. Mantle Lamp Co., 610 Aladdin Bldg., Chicago.

Agents: Cooper made \$314 last month, \$91 last week selling "Kantleak" Raincoats. New proposition. We deliver and collect. Sample coat free. Comer Mfg. Co., 14 Opal St., Dayton, Ohio.

Agents I've a new soap game that's a dandy. New stuff, 100% profits. Sample and full layout free. Write quick. Lacassian Co., Dept. 50, St. Louis, Mo.

Agents—Get particulars of one of the best paying propositions ever put on the market; something no one else sells; make \$4,000 yearly. Address E. M. Feltman, Sales Mgr., 9715 3rd St., Cincinnati, O.

Turn Spare Time Into Dollars. Something new. No canvassing or investment. Daydark Co., Desk 54, St. Louis, Mo.

We Pay \$36 A Week and Expenses To men with rigs to introduce poultry compound. Year's contract. Imperial Mfg. Co., Dept. 9, Parsons, Kans.

Agents—200% profit. Wonderful little article. Sells like wildfire. Can be carried in pocket. Write at once for free sample. H. Matthews, 419 North St., Dayton, Ohio.

Agents: Biggest selling household necessity. Huge profits; steady repeater. Write today. Peck Specialty Co., North Haven, Conn.

Agents! Quick Sales! Big Profits! Outfit Free! Cash or credit. Sales in every home for our beautiful Dress Goods, Hosiery, Underwear, etc. Write today. National Importing & Mfg. Co., Dept. DB, 425 Broadway, New York.

Women Make Money introducing Priscilla Fabrics, Hosiery, Underwear, Dresses in spare time. Beautiful samples furnished free. Fitzcharles Co., Dept. 156, Trenton, N. J.

\$150.00 Salary For 60 Days Work Paid Woman Or Man in each town to distribute Free circulars and take orders for White Ribbon Concentrated Flavoring. J. S. Ziegler Co., 7D, E. Harrison St., Chicago.

Agents: Get An Easy Seller. Sanitary All Metal Bread and Pastry Board and Rolling Pin is making big hit. Make \$25 to \$40 every week. Smith, Ohio, sold 38 one day. Profit \$19.00. Sells at sight. No talking necessary. Free Sample to Agents. Write quick for appointment and territory. Union Mfg. Co., 182 Main St., Cambridge, O.

EARN \$50 to \$100 monthly distributing Parker Hosiery to regular repeat customers in your home town at mill prices. All or spare time. Protected territory. Credit given. G. Parker Mills, 2733 No. 12th St., Phila., Pa.

Would \$150 Monthly as General Agent for \$150,000 corporation and a Ford Auto of your own, introducing Stock and Poultry remedies, Dips, Disinfectants and sanitary products interest you? Then address Royoleum Co-Operative Mfg. Co., Dept. 2, Monticello, Ind.

Would \$150 Monthly. Auto of your own to travel in, as General Agent, handling remarkable sellers, Lightning Patch Vulcanizer, Shock Absorber, and Anti-Thief Combination Auto-Switch Lock, thief proof, interest you? Then address Dept. 2, U. S. Manufacturing Co., Wolcott, Indiana.

Photo Pillow Tops, Portraits, Frames, Sheet Pictures, Photo Plates, Pennants, Paper Mache Frames, Rejects credited. Prompt shipments; samples & cat. free. Prompts. 30 days credit. Jas. C. Bailey Co., Desk A5, Chicago, Ill.

Agents—Fast selling household necessity. Big profits. Repeat orders. Every call a prospect. Particulars free. Sample 10c. Write immediately. Phillip Sills 212 Drake Bldg., Oneida, N. Y.

Blaxit Safely While Hot. New stove polish, works without soiling the hands. Agents Wanted. Boss Mfg. Co., New London, Ct.

"Easy Steps" scientific foot-comforters; sponge rubber, inside-cushions; dox. Drexler \$2; cell \$6; profit \$4; Big clean-up. Samples 24c. Manhattan C-Product, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Man To Wear Fine Suits act as agent. Big pay, easy work. Banner Tailoring Co., Dept. 489, Chicago.

Newest Money-maker! 11 piece toilet set selling like blazes at \$1.00 with \$1 carving set free! Enormous Profits! Tremendous hit! Randall sold 30 one day. Success sure. Pierce Co., 605 Pierce Bldg., Chicago.

Paint And Roofing Salesman Wanted in each County to sell our guaranteed products direct to consumers. Reliable energetic men make money. No investment required. Highest commissions paid promptly. Write today. The Colorcraft Company, Cleveland, Ohio.

AGENTS WANTED

Man Or Woman To Travel for old-established firm. No canvassing; \$1170 first year, payable weekly, pursuant to Contract; Expenses advanced. G. O. Nichols, Phila., Pa., Pepper Bldg.

Guaranteed Hosiery Selling From Mill earns \$5 a day for our representatives. No Capital or experience needed. All or Spare Time. Weber Mills, Nicetown Station, Phila., Pa.

Sells Like Hot Cakes new ironing wax, perfumes clothes, clamps ironing board, asbestos rest. Working outfit 5c. Waxpad, Lynbrook, N. Y.

\$1,000.00 For Your Next 100 Days. Spot Cash. New money-making invention for agents, general agents, managers. Recently invented. 1,000,000 already sold; 200 more salesmen wanted at once. Amazing automatic Compressed Air Washing Machine. Washes tub of clothes in six minutes. No cranks to turn or levers to push—no rubbing. Works like magic. Price only \$1.50—makes sale at every house; 200% profit. L. Palmer, Glen Allen, Ala., put out on trial 108 machines, sold 107. Profit \$107.00. Write now, Wendell Co., 1151 Oak St., Leipsic, O.

Agents. Sell rich looking 36x65 imported Rugs, \$1 each; Carter, Tenn., sold 116 in 4 days, profit \$57; you can do same. Write for sample offer selling plan; exclusive territory. Sample rug by parcel post prepaid 95c. E. Condon, Importer, Stonington, Maine.

\$61.50 Weekly. Introducing and selling a new gas light burner for kerosene lamps. Beautiful light. No chimney. No mantle. Samples free. Luther Mfg. Co., Dept. 258, Cincinnati, O.

Sell California Rosebuds. Swell line. Big profits. Catalog free. Mission Seed Company, 28219 West Pico, Los Angeles, Calif.

Agents—A one-cent post card will put you in touch with an \$80 a week proposition selling Aluminum Utensils and Specialties direct to the consumer. Don't let one cent stand between you and prosperity. Div. B.B.P., American Aluminum Mfg. Co., Lemont, Ill.

Agents, Crew Managers, Sure Winner. Just out. Sells at sight everywhere. 25c sample 10c. Particulars Free. Cook Supply Co., Albany, Ga.

Start In Business for yourself selling our guaranteed Hosiery and Underwear direct to Wearers. Others make \$20 to \$30 weekly to start. Write Today for particulars. The Cee & Dee Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.

Spiral Spring Curtain Rods: fit any window; put up in minutes; sample 10c; circulars free. Moore Co., 4132 Jerome Ave., Cincinnati.

Comfort's Comicalities

A Prospect of Freedom

"Where do you intend to go this summer?" "I'm going to stay at home," replied Mr. Dustin Stax. "My family's going away and I'm going to embrace the opportunity to sit in my shirt-sleeves and smoke cigars in the best rooms in the house." —Washington Star.

Keeping It Quiet

Little Margaret lived in a gossipy neighborhood and, being an observant child, she had got some ideas into her curly head. One day, having done something naughty, she was sent up-stairs to confess her transgression in prayer. "Did you tell God all about it?" asked her mother when she came down again. Margaret shook her head decidedly. "Deed I didn't," she declared. "Why, it would have been all over heaven in no time." —Boston Transcript.

Difference in Religion

The woolly-headed Uncle Rasmus was accused of disturbing the peace. Officer Mort Rudolph explained it as follows: "Your honor, this man was running up and down the Mill River road waving his arms and yelling at the top of his voice, and otherwise raising the mischief, at

SALESMEN WANTED

Traveling Salesmen Wanted—Experience unnecessary. Earn big pay while you learn at home during spare time. Only eight weeks required. Hundreds of good positions open. Write today for large list of openings and testimonials from hundreds of students we have placed in positions paying \$100 to \$500 per month. Address nearest office, Dept. B-28, National Salesmen's Training Ass'n., Chicago, New York, San Francisco.

Salesmen Wanted—Reliable Men That can furnish team and wagon to travel in the country and sell old established line of medicines, flavorings, spices, soaps, toilets, condition powder, etc. Permanent work. Pay Big. Write today for free copy of "Opportunity." It tells how. Seminole Medicine Co., Boone, Ia., Box 228.

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Guaranteed Watch Or Gold Plated bracelet free to boys and girls for placing sample packet seeds with friends. Eckert Seed Co., B-71, Cly, Pa.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

The American School of Aviation announces a new Non-Resident Course in Aviation. A thorough training in Aeronautical Engineering. American School of Aviation, Dept. 3041, 431 So. Dearborn St., Chicago.

Stenographers Are Wanted. Short-hand in 30 lessons. Home study. Positions assured. Write for Free booklet C. American School Of Phonography, Station A, Cleveland, Ohio.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Dollars Yearly in your backyard; no get rich quick dope, something new, particulars free. Metz, 313, East 89th, New York.

Free For Six Months—My special offer to introduce my magazine, "Investing for Profit." It is worth \$10 a copy to any one who has no acquired sufficient money to provide necessities and comforts for self and loved ones. It shows how to become richer quickly and honestly. Investing for Profit is the only progressive financial journal and has the largest circulation in America. It shows how \$100 grows to \$2,200; write now and I'll send it six months free. H. L. Barber, 408, 26 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

"Jest for Fun"

half past one in the morning. The people of the district complained, and they had a perfect right to."

The Judge, says Case and Comment, frowned at Rasmus, who didn't seem to be particularly worried. "What do you mean by such unbecoming conduct?" his honor demanded. "Religion, Judge," was the response. "Religion! Are you a Holy Roller or something like that? I have religion, Rasmus, but I don't get up at midnight and tell everybody about it."

A Good Horse

Old Mr. Casewell was an inveterate horse trader, and also a good deal of a wag.



One day he swapped a decidedly disreputable looking nag, and after the deal was consummated he said:

"Now, sir, I'll tell yer fair and square."

COINS AND STAMPS BOUGHT

Will Pay \$100.00 for Trade Dollar 1885; \$7.00 for 1853 Quarter without arrows; \$750.00 for certain \$5.00 gold without motto. Cash premiums for rare coins to 1912. Get posted. Send 4c. Get our Large Coin Circular. Numismatic Bank, Dept. 6, Fort Worth, Texas.

\$4.25 Each Paid for U. S. Eagle Cents dated 1855. Keep all money dated before 1855, and send 10c at once for New 111c'd Coin Value Book, 4x7. It may mean a fortune. Clarke & Co., Coin Dealers, Box 20, LeRoy, N. Y.

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Patents. Write for List of Patent Buyers and Inventions Wanted. \$1,000,000 in prizes offered for inventions. Send sketch for free opinion as to patentability. Our four books sent free. Patents advertised free. We assist inventors to sell inventions. Victor J. Evans & Co., 641 Ninth, Washington, D. C.

Patents Secured Or Fee Returned. Actual search free. Send sketch or model. 1916 edition 90-page patent book free. George P. Kimmel, 232 Bannister Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Ideas Wanted—Manufacturers are writing for patents procured through me. Three books with hundreds of inventions wanted sent free. I help you market your invention. Advice Free. R. B. Owen, 18 Owen Bldg., Wash., D. C.

BOOKS

Christwoundedmarked A. C. Emmerich and Visions, Nativity, Flight, and Cana; 250 pages, bound, for 30c. Klein Co., Brandon, Minn.

MUSIC FOR SALE

If You Really Want good Sheet Music, try our Century Edition. Price per copy 10c. Write for free Catalog. New Jersey Sales Company, Box 243, Passaic, N. J.

MISCELLANEOUS

55 Formulas, Tricks, Household Hints in our interesting Magazine, two issues, 10c. The Cropper Mail Order House, Marysville, Utah.

POULTRY

Poultry Paper, 44-124 page periodical, up to date, tells all you want to know about care and management of poultry, for pleasure or profit; four months for 10 cents. Poultry Advocate, Dept. 112, Syracuse, N. Y.

5000 In Pigeons! Start raising squabs for market or breeding purposes. Make big profits with our Jumbo Pigeons. We teach you. Large, free, illustrated, instructive circulars. Providence Squab Co., Providence, R. I.

Egg-a-hatch applied to eggs during incubation strengthens the chick and weakens the shell. It supplies free oxygen, absorbs the carbon dioxide and rots the shell. Makes better hatches of stronger chicks. Booklet free. Sample, treats 100 eggs, 10 cents. Package, treats 500 eggs, 50 cents, postpaid. Geo. H. Lee Co., 609 Lee Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

2949 Cockerels, hens and pullets, 49 varieties chickens, geese and ducks. Eggs in season. Seeds and Trees. Aye Bros., Blair, Nebr., Box 30. Free book.

S. C. White Leghorns. World's greatest laying stock bred from trap nested hens. Ill. circulars free. Ondawa Farms, Shushan, N. Y.

PHOTO FINISHING

Special Trial Offer. Your next Kodak film developed 5c. Prints 2c each. Moser & Son, 2122 St. James Ave., Cincinnati, O.

Beautiful Enlargements, Art Mounts, 5x7, 25c; 8x10, 35c; send negative, satisfaction guaranteed. Quality Photo Finishing gives Better Results. Special Offer, samples free. Fox Studios, 59th & Hunter Sts., Philadelphia.

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do You Take Pictures? Write for free sample of our large magazine, showing how to make better pictures & earn money. American Photography, 838 Pope Bldg., Boston, Mass.

OKLAHOMA OIL LANDS

Why Stay Poor? \$25.00 invested in Oil Land may make your fortune. Easy payments. Particulars Free. Address Frank P. Cleveland, 1114 Adams Express Building, Chicago.

"Jest for Fun"

That horse has got two faults."

"Yes, and more too, I guess," assented the other. "But what are the two you mention?"

"Well," confided old Casewell, slowly, "If he gets out in th' field he's th' hardest horse to catch ye ever see, an' when ye catch him he ain't worth a cuss." —National Magazine.

Choosing the Lesser

"We sleep under double blankets every night out where I live."

So He Didn't Waste It

A little boy went to Sunday school for the first time. His mother gave him a nickel to put in the collection box. When he returned he had a sack of candy.

"Where did you get the candy?" asked his mother. "From the stand around the corner." "But what did you buy it with?" "With the nickel you gave me." "But that was for Sunday school." "Well," replied the boy, "I didn't need it. The minister met me at the door and got me in free." —Christian Herald.

POST CARDS

Send Ten Cents for 20 Assorted High Grade Post Cards; One Flag Rug Free. Nichols Specialty Co., Whitehall, N. Y.

MOVING PICTURE BUSINESS

\$50.00 Nightly—In the Moving Picture Business on installment plan. No experience needed. Catalogue free. Monarch Film Service, 228 Union Ave., Dept. D, Memphis, Tenn.

\$35.00 Profit Nightly. Small Capital Starts You. No experience needed. We teach you the business. Catalog free. Atlas Moving Picture Co., 407 Franklin Bldg., Chicago.

MOTION PICTURE PLAYS

Write For Free Catalog of best books on writing and selling photoplays, short stories, poems. Atlas Publishing Co., 826, Cincinnati.

Photoplay Ideas Wanted By 48 Companies. \$25-\$500 paid. Experience unnecessary; details Free. Producers League, 311, St. Louis.

Write Photoplays! \$75 each. Send for free booklet "How to Write Moving Picture Plays." Universal Pub. Co., 315 Fergus Falls, Minn.

ROSES

Roses: If you love them, send for descriptive price list. Best Grown. "Pinault" Dept. A, New Bedford, Mass.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Plays Speakers, dialogues and entertainments; catalogues free. Address Dept. A, Ames Pub. Co., Clyde, O.

HELP—MALE AND FEMALE

Earn \$25 Weekly, writing for newspapers, magazines. Experience unnecessary; details Free. Press Syndicate, 451 St. Louis, Mo.

REAL ESTATE

Small Missouri Farm \$10 Cash and \$5 monthly; no interest or taxes; Highly productive land; close to three big markets. Write for photographs and full information. Munger, D-104, N. Y. Life Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

Best Opportunities today are in the South for farm and other homeseekers. Low priced lands, largest profits per acre in grain, alfalfa and other crops, healthful home regions; openings for live stock, dairy, poultry, fruit and truck farmers. Write for literature. M. V. Richards, Ind. & Agr. Comm., Room 19 Southern Railway, Washington, D. C.

Fla.—Fruits, flowers, winter vegetables, rich lands, lots, bungalows, big profits, fine winter climate. Buy a farm, grove, lot, home. C. C. Ausherman & Co., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

FARM LANDS FOR SALE

Profitable Little Farms In Valley Of Virginia, 5 and 10 acre tracts \$250 and up. Good fruit and farming country. Send for literature now. P. S. LaBonne, Agr. Agt., N. & W. Ry., 269 Arcade Bldg., Roanoke, Va.

Landless People! You can get a small or large piece of good land, suitable for poultry, vegetables, fruit, general crops; best country in Michigan. \$15 to \$25 an acre, \$5 to \$50 down, balance small monthly payments. Write for full information and booklet free. Swigert Land Co., A-1248, First National Bank Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

FARM LANDS

Uncle Sam is watering a farm for you in Salt River Valley, Arizona, where you will live longer and better, and make more money with less work. Read our Roosevelt Dam folder for request. C. L. Seagraves, Industrial Com'r AT&SF Ry., 1946 Ry. Exchange, Chicago.

Florida Poultry Farm with new 4-room house \$750; city water; electric lights; overlooks lake; picture free. Geo. Colburn, Lake City, Fla.

Productive Lands, Crop Payment or cash terms—along the Northern Pacific Ry., in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Free literature. Say what state interests you. L. J. Bricker, 197 Northern Pacific Ry., St. Paul, Minn.

FARMS FOR SALE

Money-Making Farms, 15 states, \$10 to \$50 an acre; stock, tools and crops often included to settle quickly. Write for Big Illustrated Catalogue. E. A. Strout Farm Agency, Dept. 3027, 150 Nassau St., New York.

FARMS WANTED

Wanted. Hear from owner good farm for sale. Cash price, description. D. F. Bush, Minneapolis, Minn.

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Be A Detective—Earn \$100 to \$300 per month; travel over the world. Write O. T. Ludwig, 267 Westover Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

No Strike: 8 Hour Day. Men everywhere. Firemen, Brakemen, Baggagemen, \$120. Colored Porters, Experience unnecessary. 828 Railway Bureau, E. St. Louis, Ill.

We Pay \$80 Monthly Salary and furnish rail and express tickets. Introduce our line of stationery and stock powders. Bigler Company, X-314, Springfield, Ill.

Do You Want a sure job with big pay, easy hours and rapid advance? Write for my big free book, DW1460 which tells you how you can get a good Government position. Earl Hopkins, Washington, D. C.

Become Chauffeurs. \$25 week. Learn while earning. Sample lessons Free. Franklin Institute, Dept. 8812, Rochester, N. Y.

Government Pays \$900 to \$1800 yearly. Prepare for coming "exams" under former Civil Service Examiner. New Book Free. Write Patterson Civil Service School, Box J-15, Rochester, N. Y.

Be A Government Farmer. Good pay. Steady, interesting job. Fine locations. Very desirable. Write, Central Institute, 8F, St. Louis.

Detectives—Earn big salaries. Easy work. Write National School of Detectives, 459 Fifth Ave., New York, Room 525.

Mr. Ambitious Man—Will you accept nice easy pleasant work in your spare time among acquaintances at good pay? If so write me quick for particulars. W. G. Critchlow, Manager Dept. 3, 729 Hookery Bldg., Chicago.

500 Men Wanted At Once 20-40 For Elec- tric Railway Motormen and Conductors. All parts U. S. \$40-\$100 monthly. Experience unnecessary. Send stamp for application blank. National Railway, Dept. 154, Kansas City, Mo.

HELP WANTED

Men-Women Wanted. \$75.00 Month. List Government Jobs open—Free. Franklin Institute, Dept. 812, Rochester, N. Y.

Men-Women Wanted. \$100 month. Gov't jobs. Write immediately for list positions open. Franklin Institute, Dept. 819, Rochester, N. Y.

Wanted, representatives to report names, information and handle real estate. Dept. A, National Information Exchange, Omaha, Neb.

Representatives in towns over 5,000 population. Easy home work, directing local business by letter. Absolutely no capital required; will pay up to \$50 a week. Splendid opportunity. Write McLean Co., Stewart Bldg., Washington, D. C.

FEMALE HELP WANTED

Five bright, capable ladies

Wonderful Bargains

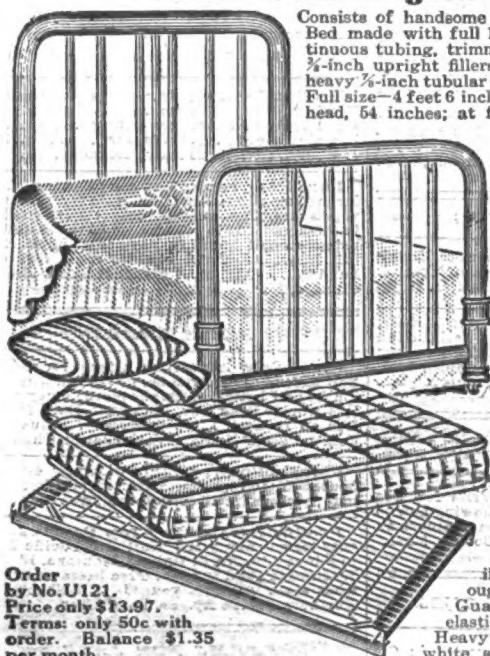
From the Great UNIVERSAL Catalog

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50¢

Sensational 5-Piece Bed Outfit

An Unusual Bargain



Consists of handsome chill-less Steel Bed made with full 1 1/2-inch continuous tubing, trimmed with seven 3/4-inch upright fillers, connected to heavy 7/8-inch tubular steel cross rods. Full size—4 feet 6 inches. Height at head, 54 inches; at foot, 34 inches. Choice of White or Ver-nis Martin. Mattress covered with durable striped ticking, filled with wood fibre and has soft sanitary cotton top. Springs made with heavy angle iron frame, tin wire fabric top connected at ends with steel helical springs. Pillow measure 18x25 in., weight 5 lbs. per pair. Filled with selected hen feathers properly cured, sterilized and thoroughly dedusted. Guaranteed soft, elastic and odorless. Heavy grade blue and white striped ticking.

Order by No. U121. Price only \$13.97. Terms: only 50c with order. Balance \$1.35 per month.

Sensational Sale of Rockers

An unusually massive overstuffed Rocker, covered in durable imitation leather, choice of black or brown Spanish. Nine heavy springs support seat, attached to frame and reinforced by steel channel bars. Extreme height about 37 inches, extreme width about 31 in. Height of seat from floor 17 in. Distance between arms 21 in. Size of seat 21x20 in. Size of arms 6x23 in. Height of back from seat 27 in. Mahogany finished frame. Securely packed in a manner to obtain the lowest possible freight rate. This is an exceptionally attractive rocker and, as will be seen from the ample dimensions, a most comfortable one. It is substantially built throughout, strong and durable. You will find this a wonderful bargain at our Special Low Price.



Merely send the coupon and 50c and rocker will be shipped promptly for 30 days free trial and then if you decide that you have a wonderful bargain, pay balance of our special low price in small monthly payments as per terms quoted. Otherwise, return it at our freight expense and every cent of your money will be refunded. The 30 days use will not cost you a cent.

Order by No. U129. Price only \$9.68. Terms: 50c with order. Balance 95c per Month.

Order One of These Special Bargains

Here is a plan for beautifying the home that marks one of the most advanced steps ever taken in the history of merchandising. For only 50c we will send you any of the remarkable bargains shown on this page. If more than one is wanted, send 50c for each item. We will also send you, free, our big catalog from which you can order anything you want in the way of dependable home furnishings by sending only 50c for each article you order regardless of its cost. You may use what you order for 30 days at our risk. If you then decide to keep it, pay the balance in small monthly payments. If you decide not to keep it, return it at our expense and we will return your 50c—the 30 days use of the goods costs you nothing. No references asked, no guarantee, no red tape.

We ask for this small 50c deposit, not in any sense as placing any obligation upon you, but merely as an indication of good faith and to protect ourselves against irresponsible people, those who might send for our goods out of curiosity with no intention whatever of buying. You run absolutely no risk in sending in your order. Ours is a big, successful firm with over \$5,000,000 capital and resources—a firm that is reputable, responsible and trustworthy in every way. And every article you order from us is backed by our legal binding guarantee which insures your absolute satisfaction. Send us your order today—only 50c and coupon for each item desired.

Special Bargain Book FREE!

Send for Special Bargain Book picturing and describing everything for the home—at rock bottom prices—and on the most wonderfully liberal terms imaginable. We Trust You for anything you want on our liberal, easy-to-pay plan.



UNIVERSAL
Mail Order Company
145-155 West 39th Street
Dept. 156 CHICAGO, ILL.

Kitchen Cabinet Special

This handy Kitchen Cabinet embodies every feature that can add to the convenience and lighten the housewife's kitchen duties. Made of kiln-dried solid oak with beautiful golden flat finish. Hardware is of copper, latest design. Height 63 in.; base top 42x26 in. Contains 1 cutlery drawer; 1 bread drawer; large cupboard space for cooking utensils; closet door, contains rolling pin rack and pan rack; 1 bread board 18x20 in.; 40-lb. flour bin with sifter attached; 1 china closet with 2 panel and art glass doors; 7-lb. tilting sugar bin; 2 spice drawers. Equipment equal to many kitchen cabinets selling for more than we ask. Our liberal credit offer gives you the opportunity to learn what a kitchen cabinet saves you in labor, worry and hundreds of unnecessary extra steps every day. Try it once and you will never give it up! Order by No. U126. Price only \$14.85. Terms: 50c with order. Bal. \$1.45 per month.



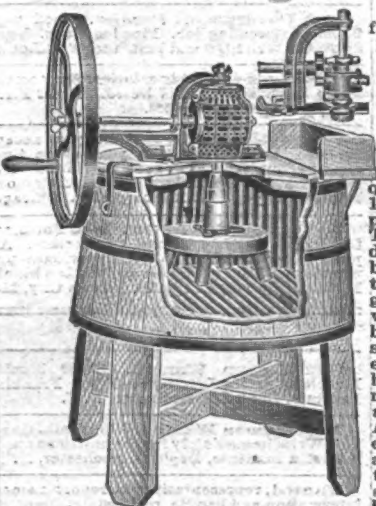
Elegant Brussels Rug Bargain!

Here is a wonderful value in a fine Brussels Rug. Woven of high grade yarns in a beautiful medallion design. Colors harmonize beautifully with tans, browns, reds and greens predominating. Send only 50c with your order for any size shown below. If you are not satisfied with your bargain after 30 days use, return it at our expense and your money will be refunded.



Order by No. U135. State Size Wanted. Size 6x9 ft. Price \$12.65. Terms: 50c with order. Balance \$1.25 per month. Size 8 ft. 3 in. x 10 ft. 6 in. Price \$17.45. Terms: 50c with order. Balance \$1.70 per month. Size 9x12 ft. Price \$18.95. Terms: 50c with order. Balance \$1.85 per month. Size 11 ft. 3 in. x 12 ft. Price \$26.85. Terms: 50c with order. Balance \$2.65 per month.

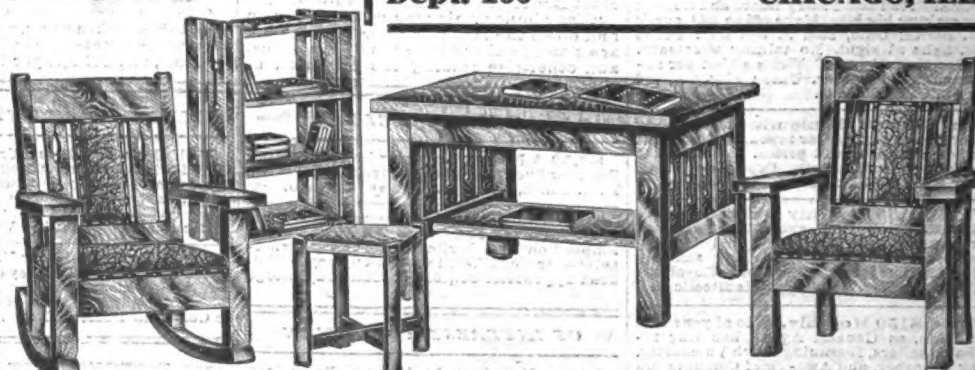
Wonderful Bargain In Washing Machines



Only by actual usage can you fully appreciate the many points of superiority in this strongly built, durable, thoroughly efficient Banner Rotary Washing Machine. Tub made of Louisiana Red Cypress, deeply corrugated on inside, making an effective rubbing surface; finished in natural wood with lasting quality varnish. Dasher block 10 in. in diameter, made of Cypress corrugated on under side. Telescope dasher post which does not project through dasher block and, therefore, cannot tangle or tear the most delicate garments. Gearing has few working parts and has roller bearings which make it work smooth and easy. Gearing covered with a shield. Machine has improved wringer attachment securely fastened to tub, admitting 12 in. roll wringer. All iron parts finished with enamel and, where necessary, are heavily galvanized to protect against rust. Capacity 8 shirts. Order by No. U125. Price only \$9.69. Terms: 50c with order. Balance 95c per Month.

5-Piece Mission Library Set Bargain

All 5 pieces made to match, of seasoned solid oak, rich, fumed finish; correct Mission design. Table is a neat design—typical of the Mission style. The rich, dark fumed finish beautifully brings out natural grain of the oak. Each end has 4 panels with attractive cut-out design. Top 34x24 in.; 8 in. back shelf; legs cut from 2 in. stock and fitted with slides. Rocker seat and back upholstered in imitation Spanish brown leather; seat supported by 6 heavy steel coil springs resting on steel channel bars. Width 26 in., height 38 in., back 24 in. above seat; seat 21x19 in. Chair has same upholstering and construction as Rocker. Width 26 in., height 38 in., back 24 in. above seat; seat 21x19 in. Magazine Rack has 4 shelves; 30 in. high, 17 in. wide, 8 1/2 in. deep. Tabourette top 11x11 in. height 18 in.



Order by No. U123. Price (Complete set of 5 pieces as shown) \$17.95. Terms: 50c with order. Balance \$1.75 per Month.

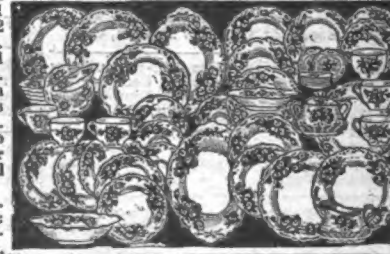
Special 21-Piece Set Gray Enamel Ware

Made of material guaranteed to give splendid service. An extraordinary value. Every housewife will appreciate this practical set. Consists of following 21 pieces: 5 1/2-quart Berlin Kettle and cover, 7-quart Teakettle and cover, 2 1/2-quart Coffee Pot, 4-quart Preserving Kettle, 2 Pie Plates, Colander, Pail and Cover, 2 Pudding Pans, Wash Basin, Tea Pot, Sauce Pan, 12 qt. Dish Pan, Cup, Spoon, Dipper, Ladle. Order by No. U130. Price \$3.95. Terms: 50c with order. Balance 50c per Month.



Remarkable Sale of Fine Dishes

48-Piece Floral Design Dinner Set—Complete for Family of Six
Beautiful, Complete 48-Piece Dining Set made of good quality pure white Porcelain, exquisitely decorated with latest rose floral pattern in many natural colors and gold. Six dinner plates, 9 1/4 inches; 6 breakfast plates, 7 1/4 inches; 6 cups; 6 saucers; 6 fruit dishes, 6 1/4 inches; 6 new style deep soup coupes; 6 butter plates; 1 deep open vegetable dish, 9 1/4 inches; 1 meat platter, 11 1/4 inches; 1 sugar bowl and cover (2 pieces); 1 cream pitcher. Every piece guaranteed full size for family use. Remember, you can have this set of dishes for 30 days free trial. If you do not wish to keep it, return it at our expense and you will not be out a cent. Order by No. U127. Price \$3.69. Terms: 50c with order. Balance 50c per Month.



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Gentlemen:—Enclosed find 50c for each item checked below. If satisfactory after 30 days examination, I agree to pay the balance as per prices and terms quoted in this advertisement. If not satisfactory, I will return goods to you.

No. U123. 5-Piece Library Set.
No. U125. Rocker.
No. U126. 21-Piece Set Enamel Ware.
No. U121. Bed Outfit.
No. U127. 48-Piece Dinner Set.
No. U129. Banner Rotary Washer.
No. U130. Kitchen Cabinet.
No. U135. Rug—Size.....

Name.....

Street No.....

Town..... State.....

NOTE. Put line like this — in front of item or items wanted.

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